

working for a good cause, (See page 8).

Bridgend & Porthcawl





Your ORIGINAL priceless weekly newspaper'

The area's longest serving Community Newspaper

Established 1983

Weekly audited distribution (52 weeks) to 31/12/09 - 43,445 (GFM Series). Audited by Grinter Johnson Ltd. Chartered Accountan www.bridgend-today.co.uk www.porthcawl-today.co.uk THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23RD, 2010

Everyone at The GEM wishes all our readers and advertisers a peaceful and happy Christmas with all good fortune in the New Year. We are now taking a short break and will not publish next week. We will see you all again on January 6th, 2011!

ANGER OVER REGENERATION 'SECRECY'

PORTHCAW MAY DECLA

'On brink of revolt' against BCBC...

been given by a Porthcawl town councillor that Porthcawl is "on the brink of revolt' over the way in which townspeople are being treated by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) over the Portheawl Regeneration Strategy.

Coun Sean Aspey was one of three people ejected from a meeting of the Porthcawl Regeneration Forum last

The councillor was present, together with two members of the Porthcawl Regeneration Open Discussion Forum,

"IT'S 38 furlongs, it

starts at 11am at the

Day, and it's in aid of the NSPCC!" said

Ralph Anslow, adding

fun run was open not

only to trained ath-

letes, but to the fit-

ness runner or even

to run off that turkey and Christmas pud-

ding," commented Lion Rhys Lewis.

going to the Porthcawl Lions' website at porth-cawllions.org or by tele

phoning Rhys on 01656

Porthcawl Lions had

their Christmas party at the Atlantic Hotel,

where the cabaret pro-

duced by and starring the ladies of the club

Runners can enter by

This is an ideal way

walker.

772369

Hi Tide, on Boxing

Lions' president,

that the Porthcawl

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

Facebook with more than 400 members.

This was the first forum meeting since revelations in The GEM that BCBC received £7m from the sale of land in the town to developers acting for Tesco.

We also revealed that of the £6.5m profit from this sale, only £1.8m will come to council taxpayers – the rest, amounting to £4.7m, will go to the Evans families, who own or control about 20 per cent of the land holdings in the regeneration area.

This deal was agreed at a secret session of Bridgend's cabinet with details on "pink papers" which are confidential.

In the public part of

was very well received.

Mr Anslow said: "I

many nuns in one place

have never seen so

and in such good

In the past year,

Porthcawl Lions have

distributed more than

such as KPC Youth

£14,000 to local causes,

Porthcawl Stroke Club,

Rest Bay Lifeguards, Porthcawl Crossroads,

national charities.

including the Royal British Legion, Help for

Heroes, Breast Cancer

Care Cymru, Parkinsons

UK, and to international appeals, such as the Pakistan Floods.

Porthcawl Lions wel-

come new members.

should telephone Don on 01656 788583.

male and female.

Anyone interested

Cash has also gone to

and others.

voice!

Porthcawl

Lions' Boxing

Day fun run

the meeting, it had been stated that the split of profits between the and the Evans council families would be 60-40 in favour of the council, but this deal, which covers the first part of phase one, works out at a split of 70–30 in favour of the private landowners.

A council spokesman argued that, overall, the council would still end up with 60 per cent, because of an increased share of profits from later phases.

However, critics point out that the deal struck with the Evans families is for 20 years, and some later phases of the regeneration may take 20 years to come to years to con fruition, if at all.

The profits have been split in this way, favouring the Evans families, at a time when the council is having to make massive savings in all departments and is considering cost-cutting measures, such as closing libraries and switching off half the borough's street lights.

There is no indication at this stage what increase council taxpay-

ers will face next April. Coun Sean Aspey said that in the light of these revelations, he decided to go along to the forum meeting, as it was the first one to take place since July.

Two members of the Facebook group were also there: Coun Aspey said: "We were asked to leave.
"I was astonished, as I

am an elected councillor.
The chairman, Coun
David Sage, asked the
members of the forum if we could stay but the vote went against us.

"I am annoyed because I was elected by the people of Porthcawl to represent them, whereas those voting to David Richards

nobody but themselves.

Bodies represented on forum SHOUT, Sustainable Wales, The Civic Society, the Chamber of Trade and voluntary groups.

Coun Aspey said: "I am beginning to feel very frustrated and

angry.
"The town council has been kept totally in the dark over regenera-

"We have been by passed by the borough council, which has never asked us our views on what should happen. We may have representa-tives, but they seem to be sworn to secrecy about what's going on.

"We had to read in The GEM what's happening to our money.

Mr Aspey, who belongs to the Facebook group, said that there were some revealing comments being made at the moment.

"The truth is that everyone is being kept in the dark and it's not good enough. What the council does now will have to be lived with by people in this town for the next 100 years.

"We must have some say in what's going to

happen."
He pointed out that

the council last held a public meeting in 2007. "We have had two prime ministers since then and the world has moved on."

Coun Aspey warned

that there was serious unrest in the town, which was ready to boil over.

"People have serious reservations about whether BCBC is acting in the best interests of Porthcawl. The borough council should be get-ting as much feedback as possible, but nobody is being consulted.

(ČONTINUED ON PAGE 17)

It's 'snow' fun this weather!



ABOVE: The snow isn't a hassle for everyone, so these girls were enjoying the fresh snowfall over the weekend. (Photo by Mandy Thomas. See page 18 for more pictures).

Council puts free school bus service under review – again

AN in-depth investi- the gation is under way in Bridgend into the thorny issue of free school buses – Jayne

Isaac reports.
At the moment, providing 'free' buses costs council taxpayers in the borough more than £5m

a year. The cabinet has asked Children's Directorate to look at all the issues involved, including those of transport for nursery aged pupils, transport for pupils aged 16 to 19 and altering the qualifying distances for free buses.

Bridgend operates a

more generous policy than it is required by law to do. At the moment, buses are provided free for primary pupils living more than a mile from school, and secondary pupils living more than two miles.

school huses mired in political contromired in political contro-versy. Attempts some years ago by Bridgend County Borough Council to increase the qualifying distances resulted in huge protests from par-ents throughout the bor-ough and the council backed off. The subject has been

The subject has been by the Children and Young People's overview and scrutiny committee, which has just submitted its findings on Home to School Transport to the cabinet.

The committee has already made some recommendations to cabinet, which were reported to the meeting in November 2009.

These distances could be brought into line with dations have been made

scrutiny committee were um and faith schools.

also included in the Officers stated that

The committee has expressed concern that schools nursery pupils aged three catchment and rising to four, were ers and mo travelling on school ify for free buses where there was at present. only one escort.

extra escorts will be pro-

vided for nursery pupils.

The committee has

 Bringing in charges for pupils who may lose their free buses instead of just withdrawing the buses. Work should be done to see what parents would be willing to pay. The directorate said that officers have calcu-

lated the full economic ing cuts, they were fare for a place on a reviewing all areas of school bus. This option expenditure, to present options to cabinet for

Raising concerns future.

the statutory limits, against a backdrop of the about the impact of which are two miles and public spending cuts and changes to primary three miles respectively, the increased pressure on school transport provision, especially as this save money.

But the whole topic of issues raised by the effect on the Welsh meditary committee were more faith schools.

report to cabinet last this was recognised and week. quantify the effect. These schools have larger catchment areas than others and most pupils qualify for free school buses

There are concerns about the effect on pupils aged 16 to 19 if their free siderations involved.

In its response, the directorate said that transport for nursery pupils is discretionary and pupils were accommodated or better the same effect on pupils aged 16 to 19 if their free transport is withdrawn. The committee fears it discourage pupils from staying on in school.

The committee fears it discourage pupils are accommodated or better the free free to pupils aged 16 to 19 if their free transport is withdrawn. The committee fears it discourage pupils aged 16 to 19 if their free transport is withdrawn. The committee fears it discourage pupils from staying on in the free free to pupils aged 16 to 19 if their free transport is withdrawn. The committee fears it discourage pupils aged 16 to 19 if their free transport is withdrawn. The committee fears it discourage pupils aged 16 to 19 if their free transport is withdrawn. The committee fears it discourage pupils aged 16 to 19 if their free transport is withdrawn. The committee fears it discourage pupils aged 16 to 19 if their free transport is withdrawn. The committee fears it discourage pupils aged 16 to 19 if their free transport is withdrawn. The committee fears it discourage pupils aged 16 to 19 if their free transport is withdrawn.

and pupils were accom-and pupils were accom-modated on existing a change in provision, the buses for primary pupils. "least unpalatable" meas-It is not envisaged that ure might be increasing the qualifying distance to the statutory norm for

The committee has secondary pupils. recommended that the cabinet give further consideration to its previous requirement to provide recommendations.

These include:

Bringing in charges

A granging in charges

An assisted travel scheme could be brought in to give free transport to pupils in receipt of free school meals.

The officers pointed out that, in view of the reduction in the council's

badget reactions.

School buses constitute a "significant" area

Attionalising the of expenditure and officutes conveying chil-School Dus periods for the of experiod routes conveying children with special educational needs. This is analysis of the current hoing reviewed at presposition, and the impact of possible option for the

MAESTEG ROBBERY: witness appeal

POLICE in Maesteg are appealing for

witnesses to an attempted robbery at the Londis Store on Lwyndarth Road, Maesteg, at about Wednesday, December 15.

Two men entered the shop and one threat-ened the owner with a screwdriver before leaving with nothing. Both were arrested by police officers outside the shop. Two men, aged 34 and 43 from the Maesteg

and have been remanded in custody. Police are appealing for any witnesses to this incident. Contact Bridgend CID on 01656 679518 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

area, have been charged with attempted rob-

The tea party tradition continues in Porthcawl!





Report and pictures кеїтн е **MORGAN**

RIGHT Coun Barbara Stubbs with some of the guests.

Porthcawl's oldest residents recently enjoyed a special afternoon tea courtesy of an unusual local tradition.

The Jenkin Henry tea party is named after a Porthcawl man who was born in Newton in 1833.

He emigrated to Australia and made his fortune as a weighbridge owner and later, an adjuster of weighbridges.

As a wealthy business man, Jenkin resided in the prosperous suburb of Carlton where he married late in life to Ann Edmonds, a widow 13 years his senior. This union, however, did not produce

He never forgot Porthcawl and when he diedat the ripe old age of 86, he left several bequests to organisations in the Town.

One legacy included £200 to be invested by the then Porthcawl Urban District Council with directions that the interest accrued each year was to be distributed at Christmas.

The above legacy automatically passed to Porthcawl Town ouncil on its formation in 1974. Subsequently, the interest has been used each year to provide a Christmas Tea in The Rest Convalescent Home for the 20 oldest residents of the town who were actually born in Porthcawl.

This year, the guests were first entertained to a singalong of carols and popular songs with Michael Boyle on the keyboard.

After, they were treated to tea during which the Deputy Mayor, Coun Barbara Stubbs, presented each of the following guests with a Christmas ard from the Mayor Porthcawl, Coun Mary Emment-Lewis, and a plaque to commemorate the occasion:

Also on hand to assist with the entertainment and tea were Mr Bill Stubbs, consort to the deputy mayor; Coun David Newton-Williams, Coun Shaun Aspey In memory of its benefactor, the event is called the Jenkin Leyshon and Sarah Watkins.

ABOVE (left to right): Debbie Jones (Macmilan fundraising manager); Sue Wilkins;

Steve Humphreys; Liz Cole; and Caroline Tranter. (Photograph by Keith E Morgan).

Bank staff remember their friend and colleague ported by more than 90

STAFF of Barclays Bank, Porthcawl, friends and colleagues of the late Sue Humphrey, held their annual quiz night at the Hi-Tide, Porthcawl, in

her memory.

The night was organ-ised by Caroline Tranter, manager of Barclays Bank, Porthcawl, and the auiz was written by Sue Wilkins, a colleague. The event was sup

of £1,040 was raised on the evening.

This was match funded by Barclays to give a grand total of £2,080.

A cheque for this

amount was presented to Liz Cole, area fundraising manager for Macmillan Cancer in

staff and friends and

Sue's husband, Steve

With the proceeds of the

f £1,040 was raised on

auiz and raffle, a total

Bridgend. Liz said that she was delighted with the support that the fund receives from Barclays, Porthcawl.
This is the third year

that the event has been run and every year, an amazing amount of money is raised, which makes a huge difference to supporting local peo-

Welcome on the mat as pupils help out police!

Neighbourhood Policing Team has had welcome help to implement the annual South Wales Police Christmas anti drink and drug

driving campaign.

It has been working in artnership with the Cynllun pupil scheme and police community support officer Bella Rees to create over 20 different designs of antidrink drive beer mats as part of their Road Safety studies

The mats, funded by Bridgend Safety Partnership, have been manufactured and delivered as part of the campaign package to public houses throughout the

Llynfi Valley.
PCSO Bella Rees aid: "Drink and drug driving is one of the primary focuses for South Wales Police during the festive period and it is young people so keen to help and support the

police campaign.
"I hope that seeing the mats which have been designed by sons, daugh ers, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews and friends will have a big mpact on potential drink and drug drivers and make them think twice

about taking such an innecessary risk. "I want to thank the pupils for doing their bit n making sure Christmas remains a happy time without the tragedy often caused by drink and drug driving

and above all I would like to thank them for helping us to Keep South Wales Safe."



PCSO Bella Rees with some of the beer mats designed by Llynfi Valley youngsters

Windowdressing results

ΓHE wisdom Solomon was called for when the judges of the Bridgend Christmas window dressing competition were touring the town centre.

There were many wor thy contenders, but in the end they awarded six prizes to the following businesses:

Dolland Aitchison, Nolton Street; and Morris Butchers, Dunraven Place; Aroma Coffee shop, Dunraven Place; Charleez Fancy Dress, Market Street; Claire Lois Lois and C Clothing, both Cameo Bridgend market.

Each winner received £40 and a certificate from Bridgend Town Mayor Barbara Parish at a ceremony in the council chamber

Broadband: 'follow Colwinston's lead

LAST week's letter effort to get something from the chairman of Colwinston's community council about broadband is very disconcerting.

For a long time, broadband providers gave Colwinston people the explanation that Colwinston was small and far from the exchange, hence things could not be expected to work as advertised, but people soon realised that they were being sold

The way the chairman's letter describes these events is regrettable.

He could have

described the raising of the problem in the Assembly by Chris Franks AM as a contribution to a cross-party

done and point to the consensus across coalition and opposition members.

However, the tone of his description is inimical to making much of such a potent alignment of the public and their representatives.

In the new year, GEM readers are going to hear from London time and again that they live in a small country which is not conveniently accessed, so they should not expect too much.

They should follow Colwinston. First, do not permit such explanations, but be very careful about the moves to be made thereafter. Coun Wynford Bellin, Colwinston

Send us your news and views. Email: gemeditorial @tindlenews.co.uk

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL DECEMBER 31)
The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
23 Thur	07.30	10.0	19.53	9.7
24 Fri	08.14	9.9	20.37	9.8
25 Sat	08.58	9.9	21.21	9.6
26 Sun	09.42	9.6	22.09	9.3
27 Mon	10.31	9.4	23.01	8.9
28 Tues	11.24	8.8	23.57	8.5
29 Wed			12.27	8.5
30 Thur	00.59	8.4	13.37	8.3
31 Fri	02.17	8.1	14.51	8.4
While The GEM makes every effort to check the				

accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Snow and ice affect borough recycling and waste services POOR weather and Christmas Eve. The your weekly recycling

ditions have severely affected waste and recycling collections across the borrecycling boxes or land-

Bridgend County Borough Council has next scheduled collection now taken the difficult decision to suspend ALL its collections this week,

fill sacks this week and to them until their

its collections this week, partners May Gurney have made special arrangements to ensure

Residents are asked to

Passengers an inconvenience?

IS Cardiff Airport in some sort of competition to be the most 'passenger unfriendly' airport in the world?

First there was the charge to use the pick up/drop off points, now there is the two pound 'non refundable' charge for baggage trolleys. Many overseas visitors will not have any British coins with them.

to make out this is an improved service. How is charging for what was a free service an improvement? She talks about new improved trolleys - I never found

It seems that Cardiff Airport sees passengers as some sort of inconvenience that should be discouraged if at all

any problems with the

posssible. **D Andrews**

dangerous, icy con-ditions have severe-the inconvenience this sack waste should still be collected on YOUR USUAL DAY over the Christmas and New Year holidays but this will

depend on the weather. Only put landfill sacks

and collection crews will and recycling vehicles be our priority when are very heavy and there deciding whether it is a significant risk of possible to send out our them sliding.

heavy refuse vehicles.

Please continue to check the council's web-

www.bridgend.gov.uk, for details and listen to 106.3 Bridge FM for updates before putting out your waste and recycling. The council's four civic amenity sites are

currently open.
Coun John Spanswick, cabinet member for com-munities, said: "This was very difficult decision especially make, around Christmas, when we are well aware that households generally have more recycling and

'I have no doubt this will cause a great deal of inconvenience but hope YOUR that residents will under over the stand why we have need ed to do this.

"The weather condi tions are dreadful and although our highways out if it is the scheduled teams are doing a fantas collection day. tic job salting our pri-The safety of residents mary routes, the refuse

"We simply cannot risk the safety of resi-dents and their property

by sending the trucks out "We have had many residents calling us to tell us not to risk coming out and we are enormously grateful for this sensible, patient and understand

ing approach.
"We will do our best to resume services next week, including the bank week, including the bank holidays, but check the website and listen to Bridge FM before put-ting out your recycling and waste to avoid it

going uncollected."
(SEE ADVERT ON PAGE 5)

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CYNFFIG PUPILS THRILL WITH JOSEPH AND THAT AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT

CYNFFIG Comprehensive School's Christmas production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, had its own review written into the title Amazing, Technicolour and an absolute Dream.

Over the years, the school has produced some spectacular musicals but this year's production, with some extraordinary and professional standard performances from the talented cast, surpassed even their best.

This show worked beautifully on every level and the energy, excitement and sheer sense of fun was infectious for a spellbound audience.

The following young actors have to be singled out for their performances. Dan Urch, playing the role of Joseph, was simply incredible.

Joe Jones as Jacob is a natural comedian of

warmth and wit. Among the grace, style and split-second polish of the dancers, Emily Perry stood out

as a star in the making.

Choreography is not always as good as it could be in school productions, but here it was slick and

as sharp.
The brothers were played by Geraint Sibley (Mr The brothers were played by Geraint Sibley (Mr Tango), David Edwards, Levi Jenkins, Liamara Collier, Leah Fox, Kelsie Dewar, Charlotte Urch, Bethany Browning, James Biggs, Bronte and Bronwen O'Neil and the Wives were played by Jenna Dingle, Steph Phillips, Megan Evans, Laura Underhill, Aimee Stone, Kim Rowbotham, Natasha Dykstra, Hollie Tossell, Kayleigh Harris and Jess Williams.

They all shone as members of a true company cast.

Emily Jehu, Leah Fox, Kelsie Dewar, Levi Jenkins, and Bethany Browning were also the mul-tiple narrators and the doubling up of their roles showed the strength of direction in this show.

showed the strength of direction in this show.

There were special guest appearances by Mr Phil
Rogers as Potiphar and Mr Darran Williams as the
Pharaoh (via Graceland) and their hilarious performances got the laughs they deserved.

Lauren Lewis as Mrs Potiphar, with Arianwen
Rees and Amber O'Brien as attendants, injected
glamour, style and sophistication into the show,

with newcomers James Thomas and Lewis Pritchard proving that this is a production with some effective comic moments

Joseph is carried entirely by its music so a special mention must go to the superb quality of the performances of the cast and the choir under the musical direction of Mrs Bronwen Addicott and Mr

Jonathan Whatley.

Once again, as in past triumphs, the show was brilliantly directed by Mrs Susan Shadis, supported by Miss Sarah Smith.

RICHARD

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MALCOLM NUGENT



ABOVE: 'You can count on me.



Cllr. ONNA DAVIES The Chair of **Brackla Community Council** on behalf of the Community Council and fellow Councillors, would like to wish all the residents of Brackla a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

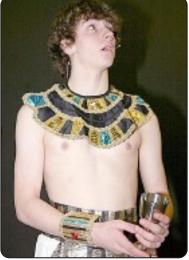








ABOVE: Joseph and Pharoah compare spray tans!

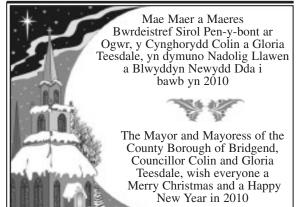


ABOVE: Dan Urch shone in his portraval of Joseph.





'Y'all come and see me in Memphis.'



Celebrations for Blaengarw's 10 years of pantomimes!

Photos by MANDY THOMAS (Available for purchase, telephone 07974 518347) These and other pictures of the event can be viewed on www.mandythomas photography.co.uk

RECENTLY, the Blaengarw panto group celebrated its 10th anniversary with an 'Oscar' award ceremony.

The group ws launched to raise funds for the Chernobyl Children Lifeline and other local charities.

Over the years, they have raised more than £40,000 and hope to reach the £50,000 milestone with their 10th panto, entitled Cinderella Happily Never After – from January 10-15 at the Blaengarw Working Men's Hall.

The awards went to: Best actor - Garry Sage; best actress -Lana Laider: funniest script moment - Kevin Jones; best costume Just fancy; most shocking moment - Andrew Redway; best villain -Lana Laidler; best male character - Garry Sage; best female character -Alana Swift; best dames – Don Sage and David Burnette; up and coming star - Greg Sage; outstanding contribution – Julian Jagiello and Andrew Redway; best show - Billy Turnaround.

RIGHT: Lana Laider was best actress and best



ABOVE: Garry Sage receives his best actor award from Emma Banks.



ABOVE: Kevin Jones receives his award from Coun David Sage.



ABOVE: David Burnett gets his Oscar from Coun Huw David.



ABOVE: Julian Jagiello receives his award from Ogmore AM Janice Gregory.





GOING FROM THE MIKADO TO MACMILLAN – a bumper £1,200 cheque!

THE Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Mary Emment-Lewis, attended Y Bwthvn Newvdd on Tuesday evening, December 7, for a cheque presentation to 'We Are Macmillan Cancer Support' and to draw the annual raffle in support of this organisation.



The formal handing over of a cheque for £1,201.95 to 'We Are Macmillan Cancer Support'. The money was raised by the Porthcawl Savoyards from their performance of 'The Mikado' held recently in The Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl. In the photograph are: Coun Mary Emment-Lewis; Bobbie Lewis, consort to the Mayor; Erith Morgan, secretary; Frank Murphy, treasurer; Margaret Murphy, chairperson; Iorwerth Morgan, vice-chairman; Jeff Heatley, committee member.
(Photograph by Keith E Morgan.)

SNOWED IN? THEN WHY NOT READ US **ONLINE FOR FREE?**

Register at: www.bridgend-today.co.uk or www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

Mayor cuts cake for a 150th birthday...



ABOVE: Coun Emment-Lewis cuts the birthday cake! (Photograph by KEITH E MORGAN).

THIS year, Welsh building society the Principality, celebrates 150 years since its inauguration. To mark the event, the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Mary Emment-Lewis, was invited along to the Porthcawl branch to cut the celebration cake.

Porthcawl Legion celebrates Poppy appeal success

PHOTOGRAPHS by **KEITH E MORGAN**

THE Royal British Legion, Porthcawl branch's annual Poppy appeal concert raised the magnificent sum of £1,097 – proving once again to be a great 'launch event' for the fundraising drive.

At the recent annual general meeting, presentations of framed photographs taken at the concert, were made by Lt Col. Steve Rock, vice president of the Porthcawl branch, to standard bearer Beverly Mills, and David Philpot, MBE, who carried the Book of Remembrance.

At a meeting earlier this month, a special presentation of a framed photograph was made to Ruth Birch, chairman of the Porthcawl branch, by the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Mary Emment-Lewis.

The gesture was in acknowledgement of her 12 months as chair-

Ruth will be taking part in this year's Christmas Swim and the Porthcawl Lions' 38-furlong Boxing Day fun run to raise funds for the Poppy appeal.



ABOVE: Ruth Birch with Coun Mary Emment-Lewis.



ABOVE: Beverley Mills receives her framed photograph.



Lt Col Steve Rock with David Philpot.

PISGAH CHAPEL WELCOMES YOUNG CHOIRS FOR JOINT CAROL SERVICE



Ysgol y Ferch O'r Sger School Choir.



ABOVE: Crescendo Youth Choir, with musical director Philip Juliff.

Pencoed Primary picks up plaudit PENCOED accreditation scheme

PENCOED Primary is celebrating, after receiving national recognition for its effective use of ICT.

of ICT.

The school was commended for the high standards of work achieved by pupils, while staff were congratulated for their dedication and hard work to improve the use of technology across the whole school.

The ICT mark is an

THE an Chapel, congreg

accreditation scheme which is available across the UK and schools must demonstrate an ongoing commitment to using technology as a means of improving their overall effectiveness and effi-

ciency.
Headteacher, Rob
Lewis said: "Many
thanks to all our staff,
pupils, parents, local
authority advisers and
governors for helping
the school to achieve
another significant mile-

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

THE annual carol service at Pisgah Chapel, Kenfig Hill, attracted a packed congregation to listen to local choirs.

Paying their part in the evening were Kenfig Hill Male Voice Choir, 'Crescendo', a youth choir, and school choirs from Mynydd Cynffig, Pil Primary, Cefn Cribwr, and Ysgol y Ferch O'r Sger.

Sger.
Local organisations received a welcome early Christmas present, as money raised from events at the chapel throughout the year was allocated to good causes.

Receiving grants were: KPC Youth (£250); Kenfig Hill RFC mini rugby (£250); Cefn Boys and Girls Club (£100); Sker and Pink Bay Lifeguards (£100); Air Ambulance Wales (£500); Teenage Cancer Trust (£650); Macmillan Nurses (£300); British Lung Foundation (£200).



ABOVE: Mynydd Cynffig School Choir



ABOVE: Pil Primary School Choir.

www.bridgend.gov.uk

VERY IMPORTANT MESSACE Your Christmas and

New Year recycling and waste arrangements

Poor weather is severely affecting waste and recycling collections. Bridgend County Borough Council apologises for the inconvenience this will cause. The council and its partners May Gurney have made special arrangements to ensure your recycling and waste should still be collected on YOUR USUAL DAY over the Christmas and New Year holidays but this will be dependent on weather conditions. The safety of residents

and collection crews will be our priority when deciding whether it is possible to send out our heavy refuse vehicles.

Please continue to check the council's website www.bridgend.gov.uk, for details and listen to 106.3 Bridge FM for updates before putting out your waste and recycling. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Christmas trees

them along to one of Bridgend
County Borough's four civic
amenity sites.

Christmas trees can be recycled by taking

Christmas wrapping paper

paper waste in your landfill sack.

The wrapping paper you use for your Christmas presents contains materials that make it currently unsuitable for recycling. We are working on this, but in the meantime, could you please put all your wrapping

Food waste

You can recycle your turkey carcass and any other festive food waste by placing it in your kitchen food waste container ready for your recycling collection.

Remember ALL your food leftovers can be collected in the food waste container.

Cardboard boxes

Please flatten and fold your cardboard boxes and place them in your second black box along with your glass bottles and jars for collection.

Large quantities of cardboard can be taken to one of Bridgend County Borough's four civic amenity sites to be recycled.

MAYGURNEY

Christmas cards

All your old Christmas cards can be recycled by putting them in your second black box along with your cardboard and glass.



For details on any of the council's recycling services, or for a free household waste guide giving details on how to live a greener life, please contact Bridgend County Borough Council 01656 643643.

BRIDGEND COUNCIL TAKES FRI LOOK AT KENFIG NATURE RI

NEW ways of running the nature reserve at Kenfig are to be explored.

At the moment, the reserve is run by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) under a lease arrangement with the owners, who are the Kenfig Corporation

The council provides the wardens who patrol the 1.300-acre reserve. which is a haven for birds and plant life.

The reserve consists of the area around Kenfig Pool, plus a large area of dunes and wetlands habitat stretching down to the beach. It is

regarded as one of the finest examples of sand dune habitat in Europe.

The council also runs the centre on the reserve, which includes an exhibition area and toilets.

BCBC's cabinet received a report recent-ly which stated that there was a need to improve the "quality of the visitor experience' at the reserve and centre and to ensure the reserve's future both financially and environmentally

Kenfig, which is a National Nature Reserve, was designated a Site of Special a Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1953 and, in 2006, it was further designated a

Special Area Conservation under the EC Habitats Directive.

It now has both national and international protection.

The council, through its lease, is responsible for managing and con-serving the features that are protected. This work is done in consultation with the Countryside Council for Wales through a management

agreement with them.
The reserve has two car parks for visitors and employs three wardens and a manager who are based on the site. It is staffed seven days a week and also has a loyal team of volunteers who support them.

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

100,000 visitors a year but only about 13,000 of these use the visitor cen-

A study has already been undertaken to see how Kenfig could be improved as a visitor attraction to make better use of the facilities there

The report states: "It is recognised that the Kenfig visitor centre is not meeting its full potential and the overall experience of the visitor is falling short of con-temporary needs and expectation.

"The current operation should become more visitor focused to meet these needs and in so doing, exploit the commercial opportunities that this approach will present."

The council spends £181,000 running the reserve each year although this is partially offset by income and grants of £48,000, leaving it making a net contribution of £133,000.

The report says that the staff at the reserve mainly involved with managing the ecology of the reserve rather than managing the visitor attraction, marketing and retailing. But these skills are likely to be in

demand in the future.
The CCW has also pointed out that, despite the high level of management, key features of the dune system are in danger of being lost permanently because of the encroachment of scrub.

The report goes on: "Clearly, the current management model is neither protecting the ecology of the reserve nor fulfilling its poten-

PACT

meetings

NEWCASTLE PACT,

Civic Offices, Angel Street on January 10, at

Penybont Primary School, Minerva Street

LLANGEWYDD AND

/pm. MORFA TOW.

on January 10, at

CEEN CLAS

5.30pm.

tial as a visitor attraction. Some fresh impetus is required to develop a sustainable future for the reserve.

It says that it is important to question whether the council has the necessary expertise in managing nature-based visitor attractions to make the necessary changes. It points out that many charitable organisations such as the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds), the National Trust and various wet-land and wildlife trusts, have shown how valuable specialist expertise

can be, The cabinet asked to approve further work being undertaken, in conjunction with the corporation, to develop alternative management

These could include seeking a suitably experienced partner organisation to undertake the management of the reserve on behalf of the council, or handing the reserve back to the cor-poration, which can appoint its own manag-

ing agent.
The 21-year lease of the reserve expires in 2020 but there is an option to relinquish it on December 31, 2013, provided two years writ-

ten notice is given.
The cabinet was asked to approve serving this notice before
December 2011,
although it was emphasised that this in no way reduces the council's commitment to the

reserve. The council, in the meantime, will continue to manage the reserve

alternative options are developed.

If no viable alternative is found, the council could enter into a new lease with the corporation before the current one expires.

The council would also have to give notice to the CCW if it is going to relinquish its manage-ment of the reserve. Talks have been held with the corporation and further meetings are planned.

The cabinet has agreed to authorise officers to work with the corporation on alternatives and to serve the written notice on corporation and to CCW if required.

Coun Jeff Tildesley, who is the longest serv ing member of the corporation, said that he was supportive of the

"I have felt for a long time that the Kenfig Nature Reserve has been undersold. It is a unique facility but it does not get the profile that it deserves."

He contrasted Kenfig with Slimbridge Wildfowl Trust, which is run mainly by volun-teers but which attracts much higher numbers of visitors.

"We need to max-imise the income of the reserve to reduce the subsidy from BCBC," he added. "We have a shop at the centre but we need to attract people to go into the centre first.

"We are thinking of putting a café in there which would substan tially increase footfall into the building.

for two years while café and a shop where we can sell souvenirs and other things.

"That's the way to boost income and it may be possible to franchise the café and shop out and let a commercial provider run it on our behalf."

But Coun Tildesley emphasised that the council was not turning its back on the reserve and he welcomed the on-going commitment to

CCTV camera a question of cost...

THE cost of a portable CCTV camera for Porthcawl would be about £8,000 to purchase - plus annual maintenance.

There would also be a £1,000 annual charge for monitoring it, and a £200 cost each time it was moved.

This information was given to the town council by Insp Alan James, sector inspector for Porthcawl.

The town council has been considering whether or not to have a mobile CCTV camera for some time, so that it could be redeployed to problem

areas when required. This camera would not be monitored by existing CCTV staff 24-hours-a-day, but they would dial into it daily at specified times. when possible, as part of their monitoring of the entire CCTV net-

The camera would record onto a hard drive system which can be dialled into retrospectively to view footage at a given time and date.

This would be viewed by a police officer and member of CCTV staff.

If re-location was needed, staff from the BCBC CCTV unit would have to conduct a site visit to ensure that there was a suitable lamp post nearby, capable of accommodating the camera.

Insp James told the council that he did not know if this would be a feasible option in view of the on-going costs, and also the time needed for police officers, not PCSOs, to view retrospective footage.

The matter has been deferred by the town

Carol service honours the Porthcawl RNLI



ABOVE: Pupils from West Park Primary School prepare to sing carols by candlelight.





PHOTOS by KEITH E **MORGAN**

ALL SAINTS CHURCH Porthcawl was the venue for the recent RNLI carol service.

The singing was led by Porthcawl Male Choir, and the congregation were also entertained by the children West Park Primary School Choir.

In fact, the children helped give it a special Christmas atmosphere. by singing carols by candlelight outside the church!



Read your GEM online: bridgendtoday.co.uk or porthcawltoday.co.uk

BRYNHYFRYD PACT The Pavilion, Bryntirion Playing Fields, Park View on January 10, at MORFA WILDMILL PACT, The Community Hub, The Precinct, Wildmill on January 13, at 6.30pm. BRYNTIRION, LALE-STON AND MERTHYR MAWR PACT, Laleston Gardening Club, Laleston on January 20,

2011 at 7pm. BRACKLA PACT, Brackla Junior School. Brackla Way, Brackla, Bridgend on January 27 at 6.30nm LITCHARD AND PENDRE PACT. Pendre Community Hall

Great Western Avenue on January 31 at 6pm. COITY PACT, Gilead Chapel Hall, Coity on February 17, at 7pm. **AWAITING NEW** DATES OLDCASTLE PACT,

The Library, Brynteg Comprehensive School TRA FELINDRE,HENDRE AND PENPRYSG

(PENCOED) PACT, Welfare Hall, Heol Y Groes - TBA

VA NEWMAN GLASS QUIZ LEAGUE RESULTS

Roche and Royals battle through to the next round

JUST two matches were played on Monday, the other 12 teams having byes through to the quarter-finals of the Cup and Plate competitions.

In the KO Cup, Cabo Roche won by 65–46 points and Tyrisha Royals had a successful visit to Llynfi Arms, winning 62–51.

In the Plate, Laleston Inn 'A' shaded an extremely close encounter by 66–63 and Oldcastle 'B' hit top form to beat Pheasant Gamekeepers 69–47.

Here are your weekly teasers:

1. In mythology, who was condemned to eternally roll a boulder up to the top of the hill only to see it roll down the other side?

2. Who had a No 1 hit in June 1987 with 'Star Trekking'? 3. At the 2010 US

Masters, which 60-yearold finished in a tie for 18th place? 4. Which motorway

runs from Glasgow to Carlisle?

matches League resume after the Christmas break on Monday, January 10.

It just remains for me to wish you and all the hard-working people at The GEM a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

A RUDGE (League Hon sec

** W \tag{\frac{1}{2}} 3. Tom Watson. I. Sisyphus. 2. The Firm. **VNZMEKZ:**

will be a Christmas Eve service at the church at

10pm.
The Ogmore Vale

Primary School head-teacher has reminded

responsible adults of children at the school

8.45am.

that the entry doors to the school are locked at



ABOVE: The lucky ones who skipped school to go to the panto!

Panto time for Corneli pupils



KEITH E **MORGAN**

EVERY year, the Rotary Club of Porthcawl, takes a coach full of children from a local school to see the pantomime in the Grand Pavilion.

This year, it was the turn of the children from Ysgol y Ferch O'r Sger, North Corneli. The pantomime was Jack and the Beanstalk.

LEFT: Jeri-Lynne Grabham and Joshua Birch on the stage

Heol-y-Cyw youngsters have a new playhouse!



AS The GEM reported last week, the young children at Heol-y-Cyw Primary School had an early Christmas gift - a new playhouse, after their old one had been vandalised earlier in the year. The children couldn't wait to try it out! (Photographs by MANDY THOMAS (07974 518347 or www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk)



Concert date

I HAVE received con-firmation that Bridgend Male Choir's Golden Jubilee Anniversary concert that was can-celled because of the inclement weather will now be taking place in the Tabernacle Chapel, Pontycymer, on the January 14 2011.

All the performers in the previous concert have confirmed that they will take part.

The choir has com-pleted its 2010 concerts, but a few mem-bers were out last Friday evening as 'Singing Santas' help-ing the Bridgend Rotary Club raise money for the charitable causes it is supporting this year.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject

every newswormy subject.
Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

Horeb service

HOREB Baptist Chapel in Dinam Close, Nantymoel, will hold a special service on Friday, December 24 at 6pm to commemorate the birth of Christ.

Everyone will be wel-come at the service and Pastor Chris Bluto can be contacted on 01443

Christingle ST DAVIDS'S Church, Bettws will

hold a Christingle service on Christmas Eve at 4pm. On Christmas day, there will be a service at 10am.

Festive services

ST BRIDE'S church, Llansantffraid: On Christmas Eve there will be a midnight

at 11.30pm. St John's Church, Aberkenfig: There will be a Christmas Day service at the church at 9am

St David's Church, Wyndham: On Friday, Christmas Eve, there will be special crib service for children at 5pm, and a Midnight mass at 11pm. On Christmas day will have a service at 10am. Tondu Methodist

mass service beginning

If pupils arrive after this time they must go to the reception area to ensure they have a reg-istration mark for the day, and the class regis ters are actually closed

before 9am. The school will be closed on January 4-5 for inset days; school term begins on January

I would like to wish all readers of this column a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR OPENING:

From Monday 27th Dec EVERY DAY 10am to 5.30pm. except SUN 2nd Janl lam to 5pm.

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HRISTMAS is an important time for charities.

Many will use the festive season to launch fundraising appeals, while some (Operation Christmas Child for instance) are, by definition, linked closely to the spirit of Christmas.

The GEM would like to highlight the work of one group of volunteers who don't do anything different at this time of year, but who are the perfect embodiment of the ethos of Christmas.

'Tools for Self Reliance' do something very simple. They collect old hand tools in the Vale and in Bridgend county borough – from Penarth to Port Talbot.

They refurbish those old tools until they are as good as new, and make up specialist tool kits, so that people in Africa can start their own businesses.

The local group who cover the Vale and Bridgend operate from a small workshop in



Report by PHILIP IRWIN

Porthcawl. They number about 12. They are retired and (at the moment) are all men.

The result of their collection and reconditioning work is quite staggering

staggering.

By the end of this year, 70 refurbished sewing machines will have found their way to Africa, meaning that women in a poor village can form a co-operative and create their own business.

A total of 2,000 tools, all looking like new and made up into kits, will have gone from this area alone – and every pack means that a local man or woman can become a tradesman – because the parent organisation of Tools for Self Reliance ensures that they get the relevant training as well as the equipment.

The founder of the local group, John Hanson, has a sense of

sales staff on

hand to advise

you with your purchases.



pride in what he and his group have achieved – but that sense of pride extends to their own

quality control.

He told The GEM:
"When we send a tool
kit out to Africa, we
want it to look brand
new.

new.
"We are conscious of the fact that, for the man or woman who receives it, the day it arrives will be a special day.

day.
"When they open it, we want them to have that 'wow factor'."

There are so many garages and workshops in the Vale and Bridgend that must have old tools in them, whether they be automotive, carpentery, household, blacksmiths, or light engineering. Ironically, the age is

Ironically, the age is not that important, because so many of the famous names in tools are easily refurbished.

The only problem for John and his group is the relatively recent flood of very cheap tools from Taiwan, China and one or two other sources.

Even then, the group can reclaim the scrap metal value and use it to cover their basic costs – which are pretty basic. John said: "As volun-

teers, our running costs consist of wood for the fire in the workshop and cans of WD-40!" Even the large work

Even the large work bench came free, as it was surplus to requirements at St Fagans museum!

The group need to fundraise, however, because they have to pay transport costs when tool kits are shipped to the parent organisation's despatch

Local church groups have been a great help, together with very welcome donations from individuals and charitable groups.

ble groups.
They have their own range of Christmas cards too (currently on sale at SUSSED in John Street, Porthcawl).

Any prospective volunteers need not feel that they have to be experts in DIY or the like. The present group is made up of men who made their living in all sorts of trades.

Bernard was a lorry driver, Rodney a train driver, Larry was an electrical engineer with



Photographs by Mandy Thomas (www.mandythomasphotography.co.uk)

BELOW: A tool kit bound for Africa.



the RAF, while Ian was a woodwork teacher. Keith and Johnny were both engineers, while John himself was a Methodist minister, although he always had a passion for restoring old cars.

However, Brian, another Methodist minister, cheerfully admitted to being an absolute novice at anything practical, having spent his working life as a clerk. It is a sad fact of life

that people worry whether the money they give to improve life in the Third World does get to its intended target.

Bob Geldof recently had to force an apology from the BBC after allegations that Live Aid money had been diverted by warlords to buy arms.

As far as Tools For Self Reliance is concerned, their tool kits are guaranteed to find their way to their intended recipient. The kits don't have much value to corrupt officials, but they are of huge value to the recipients, as it can set them on the way to a better life

John Hanson told
The GEM: "There are
so many ways that people can get involved in
this enterprise. We need
volunteers for the workshop.
"We need fundraisers

"We need fundraisers and people who can help with general administrative work, and we need volunteers to help with collecting tools – remember, we collect from Penarth to Port Talbot!"

Tools For Self Reliance – as the advert says, it does just what it says on the can!

Anyone wishing to help the group in any way can contact John Hanson on 01656 786367



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Student Ben snaps up a photographic assignment - in double quick time!



ABOVE: Ben Mackay at work

Lorna scoops **WJEC** award

"An outstanding achievement, and evidence of the hard work

wide range of literary

commented.

W.JEC is celebrat- WJEC's chief Executive ing the achievements of its A level such tremendous results.

"An autota-line Welsh Baccalaureate candidates, by award-ing cash prizes and certificates to the the examinations," he highest achievers.

Mighest achievers.

Winner of the English language and literature prize is Lorna Oakley from Porthcawl Comprehensive School.
She gained the highest with a subject with WJEC "because of the variety within the course" and being "encouraged to study a wide range of literary"

She gained the highest marks of all the candidates who sat WJEC's A and non-literary texts.' level English language She is currently co and literature examina-tions in 2010, and will service a certificate and study English literature prize of £50, together at university before with a personal letter embarking on a career as from Gareth Pierce, a book illustrator. CS

(17) a second year student, studying ND photography, at Bridgend College, undertook work experience at MoD St Athan to see at first hand what it is like to work in a military **environment.**Ben spent the week in

the photographic section with professional photographic officer, Derek Booth and photographer, Ray Edwards.
Derek (RAF) and Ray

(Army) are ex-military photographers and both were instructors at the defence school of photography so ensured that Ben's week would be both informative and challenging.

Ben said; "I really

enjoyed my time at St Athan. From the time I arrived on the Monday morning, everyone made me really welcome

"As the week went on I found each day to be both increasingly diffi-

cult and rewarding."
On the final day Ben
was asked to put into
practice all he had learnt She is currently comby taking a formal porer as trait of a senior officer.

Ben rose to the chalreservations, he was every inch the professional, making sure that his subject felt relaxed whilst he maintained

control. PPO Derek Booth concluded; "Ben has worked really hard whilst he has been here with us at St Athan.

"Whilst he arrived with a working knowledge of photography, it is fair to say nothing could have prepared him for the busy week that he has experience whilst

he has been with us.
"Ben enthusiasm for photography has carried

him through.
"He has been a keen and attentive student and had used this opportunity to investigate areas of photography that he would not have otherwise considered."

From formal military to quirky PR and everything in-between Ben tried them all and discovered that there is much more to being a photographer than just turning up to take a 'photo'

Good photographic imagery determines how we see and interpret the world around us and beyond.



Cyclists use the bridge built using cement donated by Lafarge Cement UK's Aberthaw Works. Left -Mark Evans, executive director of Groundwork Bridgend and Neath Port Talbot, second left -

Cementing friendship with Groundwork Bridgend!

LAFARGE Cement's Aberthaw works has donated a tonne of cement to local environmental charity Groundwork **Bridgend** and Neath Port Talbot, to help improve recreational facili-

ple in the area. It has been used to construct an entrance bridge for

ties for young peo-

Groundwork's BMX track: a bridge to join to the Celtic Trail cycle track and also for a wall at the organisation's head office at Parc Tondu, Bridgend,

"This, along with an education resource centre, enables the organisation to engage with local young people and provide greater play facilities for use at evenings, weekends and during holidays," explained.

PORTHCAWL TOWN COUNCIL **NEWS IN BRIEF**

PORTHCAWL Town Council has had to pay £600 plus VAT for Lumalite, the firm supplying the Christmas lights in the town this year, to send someone to plug them in. Councillors heard that the switching-on costs were not included in the sum for providing the lights and each set of lights, has to be separately switched on at the lamp post. PORTHCAWL Town Council is to investigate the cost of employing a traffic warden to patrol the streets of the resort. Councillors heard that BCBC is not planning to take up civil parking enforcement powers at the moment which means that only areas highlighted at PACT meetings will have parking restrictions enforced by police officers from January. PORTHCAWL Chamber of Trade has been thanked by Porthcawl Town Council for providing its nativity scenes which are placed at various vantage points around the town.

THE cost of the Christmas tree placed by BCBC on the Griffin Park roundabout was £220.

Porthcawl Town Council has agreed to pay this sum. The council also agreed to pay a maximum of £570 for a tree on the Newton Nottage roundabout, subject to highway safety consent.

Porthcawl chamber of trade has offered to pay £270 towards this tree, provided a sign outlining the joint partnership with the town council can also be placed there. This is being investigated.



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SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

YEAR 2010 into 2011 will be a difficult year for KPC Youth, due to funding uncertainties, with the project cur-rently existing mainly

on its reserves.

They would like to thank all those who have supported them during the year by attending events, buying raffle tickets, putting money into collection boxes at the various pubs and shops in the area, and by donating used postage stamps, toners, unwanted clothes and gifts.

They would also like to thank all those who support them on a monthly basis through local fundraising events of their own, including Porthcawl Lions, Stuart Burge-Jones, Rotary Club in Porthcawl Pyle and Kenfig Ladies Veterans, Diaego Retirement Association and Pisgah Ladies Fellowship.

They extended special thanks to V2C, who have helped fund the new computer suite,

THE finishing

touches are being

unit at Glanrhyd

put to a new 42-bed

Hospital.

The Angleton Clinic has been handed over by

contractors to Abertawe
Bro Morgannwg
University Health Board.
Work started in
September 2009 and the

unit will accommodate

unit will accommodate patients currently located on the Oxwich and Oldcastle Wards (Wards 2 and 15) in the old part of Glanrhyd itself, and

others from Morlais

Ward at The Croeso Centre, which is at

Maesgwyn Hospital.

It is hoped that they will start the move in

January.

Lindsey Jones, assistant director of planning,

said that patients were transferring from accom-modation where they

were in three and four-

bed wards with shared bathroom facilities.

rooms are private with an en-suite bathroom

and each ward will also and each ward will also have two larger rooms near the nurses' stations for disabled patients. Each ward in the new unit will have its own

internal courtyard so patients can spend time outside if they wish.

Raised flower beds

In the new clinic, all



COMMUNITY **NEWS** from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE by Richard Sims

They look for parcels in cars, presents under

Christmas trees, parcels left at the door (ask a

neighbour to take them

other valuable items that

Police advise you to

keep these items out of sight and make sure that

your doors are locked and don't leave your

However, the good

has been a reduction in

area (for the six months ending November 2010,

reported crime in our

news is that statistics released by the NPT recently show that there

kevs in the door!

can be seen through a

window

Telephone: 01656 746840 Mobile: 07802 439679 E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

which is due to open in January 2011. KPC is currently working on development plans to expand the site and is also exploring the viability of becoming more of a community organisation - as well as continuing its work with

young people.

For further information, call into the centre next to Pil Primary School, off Pyle Inn Way, Pyle, or telephone 01656 749219/745399.

Community Watch

New 42-bed unit to

THE Neighbourhood Policing Team warn that sneak thieves are about at Christmas.

If there are any issues contact PCSO Jon Howe in Pyle on 07805 301491 and it will be dealt with

in strict confidence. Mynydd **Cynffig Junior**

School

compared to 2009).

Congratulations to the choir for their performances at St Theodore's Church on Sunday, and alongside Kenfig Hill Male Voice Choir and three other schools at Pisgah Chapel on Monday last week (See in) purses, wallets mobile phones, keys and

page 5 for photographs).
The headteacher, Mr Nigel Davies, received quite a few compliments following each performance, which highlights what tremendous ambas-sadors these pupils are for the school

Miss Brace has put in fantastic work with the children and because of their commitment, enthusiasm and excellence, the choir members are the worthy recipients of last week's headteacher's award.

Trecco lite-savers

open at Glanrhyd will enable all patients, including those in wheelchairs, to spend time gardening.
The clinic includes a number of innovative vear.

features to minimise confusion for patients.

In order to reduce the number of people coming onto the wards and unsettling patients, stor-age cupboards have been spokesperson said. Public Access provided at the ward entrances where items like mail or laundry can be delivered or left for

collection.
Rooms are colour coded to make it easier for patients, with blue for toilets and bathrooms, green for bed-rooms and yellow for

day rooms.

A 'wander loop' has also been incorporated which is a circular corridor around the ward, that will give patients a route to walk, rather than having to pace the same walkway aimless-

Angleton Clinic has also been designed with the clinical rooms sepa-rate from the wards. This means that business can go on with minimal disruption.
A multi-function

examination room can be booked for patients to see an external medical practitioner such as a dentist or physiothera-

A larger room is also available for occupational therapy sessions and this has a small kitchen which will help to pre pare patients for their return home.

A self-service café will also be available and visiting relatives will be encouraged to bring patients there from the wards.

Read your GEM online at: bridgendtoday.co.uk or porthcawltoday.co.uk

TWO life-saving defibrillators are now available at Trecco Bay near Porthcawl, which attracts thousands of visitors each

"There are 1,800 cara vans on the park, which inevitably means that injuries and sudden illnesses can occur," a Welsh Ambulance

Defibrillators (PADs) are mobile machines provided under a Welsh Assembly Government scheme and are used to treat patients who have suffered cardiac arrests.

Research has shown that a controlled shock within five minutes of a collapse provide the best chance of survival. For every minute's delay, the chances of survival

decrease by 14 per cent. Though anyone can use the machines - as instructions are provided - nine members of Trecco Bay staff have been trained in their use by Gerard Rothwell, the Welsh Ambulance Service's PAD Officer

for Wales. He said: "The leisure industry is such a vital part of our economy. We want people to be dying to visit Wales, not dying after they arrive.

'As an ambulance service, we're delighted to be able to work with the Welsh Assembly Government on this scheme, because special-ist training in basic life support skills can and really does save lives.

"The earlier someone suffering from a heart attack receives defibril-lation, the greater the chance of survival. We teach people very basic procedures – they are simple, effective – and

they work."
One of the PADs is kept at the park's indoor pool while the other is in the van used by security staff. "With so many people on site at any one time there is always a risk of someone suffering a heart problem or collapsing" said pool manager Simon Hughes.

Trained staff will be available day and night to use the PADs

Tree Festival raises £1,000

ALL Saints Church, in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Porthcawl, held a very successful Christmas tree festival over a three-day period before Christmas.

More than 50 organisations and businesses provided trees for the festival, every one of which was decorated to a very high standard.

During the festival, the church was open each day and visitors were able to view the trees with the background of Christmas music. Two concerts were held with Col Canto, Sounds

Familiar and three choirs. Tea, coffee and mince pies were available and a raffle was held.
First prize was won by Mrs Doreen Price, second
prize by Ena Challenger and third prize by Amanda
Scott. More than £1,000 was raised from the sale of

programmes, refreshments and donations As a result of the success of this first festival, it

will be repeated next Christmas and many of the organisations have already booked a place, while others have asked to be included next year.

Thanks go to all those who took part and visited

the festival, making it such a success.



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ASSAULT: two men arrested

POLICE in Bridgend have arrested two men, after a 23-yearold man was assaulted in Cefn Cribwr at around 5pm Thursday, December 16.

The men, both aged 27, come from the Pyle and Nottage areas.

RISTMAS MAGIC IN

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN

THIS year, five Christmas cribs have been placed around Porthcawl by the Porthcawl and District Chamber of

Trade and Commerce.
This is a custom in the German and Austrian traditions, but the organisers believe that it is the only example in Wales.

The Lord of Kenfig, Lindsay Morgan, was inspired to put up the cribs when some years ago, he saw a Nativity scene in the window of Sidoli's restaurant opposite Griffin Park.

Sidoli's restaurant opposite Griffin Park.
All five cribs were constructed by Chris Steins of the Shed and Fencing Centre, Village Farm Industrial Estate, Pyle.
The two wood figures of Mary and Joseph in the Trinity Church Crib, were carved by Chris Woods of Wood Art Works, Newport.
Painting of the Three Kings and Shepherds (and other figures/characters) for all five cribs, were done by Jeff Evans, a technical illustrator.



ABOVE: The crib at Newton Green.



ABOVE: The crib outside Seabank Hotel, which was blessed by the Rev Martin Gillard following an open air carol service



ABOVE: The Sidoli's crib.



ABOVE: The crib at Trinity Church which was blessed by the Rev Paul Floe, after a short service.



ABOVE: The crib at Nottage Green.



ABOVE: The Trinity Church crib.



ABOVE: The crib at Griffin Park was blessed by Father Philip Millar of Our Lady Star of the Sea.



ABOVE: Crib on Nottage Green being Blessed by Canon Philip Masson.



ABOVE: The crib at St. John's Church, Newton was blessed by the Rector, Canon Philip Masson



ABOVE: The Nativity scene in the Griffin Park crib was designed by Newton Primary School, in particular by pupil Macsen Geiss, who was awarded a certificate by the Mayor of Porthcawl.



ABOVE: The crib at the Seabank Hotel.

NEWS FROM THE LITCHARD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Christmas bazaar helps to raise money for activities next year!

Christmas bazaar OUR countdown to Christmas with our Christmas bazaar.

The junior department hall was filled with a wide variety of stalls, including books, toys, cakes, and a stall selling our own Litchard school calendar and a CD of the children singing a selection of Christmas songs - both make ideal Christmas presents!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff and volunteers who came in to help, prepare and clean up, and for making the event run smoothly.

We are pleased to say that £200 (after expenses) was raised. A fantastic £2,000 was raised also by selling concert tickets, calendars,

CD's and the raffle.
This money will all go towards funding activities for the children

Green Flag

WE are pleased to announce that Litchard Primary School has been awarded a second Green Flag award, proving once again that we are an ECO

friendly school.

The children of the ECO council, along with Miss Crump and Mrs Cronin have been working extremely hard over the past few months to ensure that Litchard Primary met the high standards required for such a prestigious award.

We are very proud of all the hard work and effort that was put in for the benefit of the whole school. Well done everyone!

Christmas concerts THE children of the nursery and reception classes delighted

their audiences this year with their Christmas Nativity con-

Despite many children absent, all the children performed bril-liantly and remembered the songs and their lines!

A very big thank you to the mums and dads for the superb costumes and for coming to see

the performance.
The Years 1-2 concert
'Christmas Kaleidoscope' was a very successful and enjoyable performance.

The pupils sang and spoke realwell, although again many were

unfortunately absent.

Aladdin and Jasmine's duet was very well received and on the Friday afternoon Daniel Morgan stood in at the last minute to perform as Aladdin was ill.

Thanks to all the mums and

dads who helped with teas and coffees and, of course, everyone who helped make costumes and came to see the performance.

The four year groups of the

junior department came together for their concert to perform a compilation of traditional, modern and international Christmas

The children all sang and recited poems beautifully in both Welsh and English, really getting everyone into the Christmas spir-

Choir evening
A VERY special concert took
place with the school choir performing with Mr Williams' choir 'Meibion Y Machlud'.

We were treated to a wonderful rendition of 'Oes Gafr eto' with the school choir joining in on the 'Wen, wen, wen' part.

Thank you to everyone who were very well behaved as they came along and made it such an walked to the postbox to send enjoyable evening.

Thanks Santa!

THE Nursery and Infant children were very excited to have a very special guest at their Christmas party. Thank you, Santa, for making their party extra special.

Christmas lunch

THANK you to the kitchen staff for the wonderful Christmas lunch provided for the children.
The infants had their lunch on

December 2 and the junior children had theirs on December 9. It is such a huge task to cook for so many, and it is greatly appreciated by all the children.

Christmas sing-a-long THANK you to everyone who attended our Christmas sing-along with the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band on Sunday.

It was great to see Alan Bourne and the band back for the 21st time. This has become an annual fixture which sets the scene for Christmas.

Thanks to everyone who turned up to take part in, support and eniov the event.

A special thank you to the staff A special mank you to the start who prepared and served the refreshments, and to Mrs Edmunds for making all those delicious mince pies. What a lovely start to Christmas!

Nursery visit

ON December 3, the Nursery children visited Bryngarw Country Park.

They thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas trail in the forest and

the surprise visit from Santa!

Last week the Nursery children

their letters to Father Christmas.

Achievements

CONGRATULATIONS to the following children on their superb achievements: Milly Bayliss (Reception) – National Plan stage one swimming award, Lois Davies (Reception)

- Duckling swimming award stages 3 and 4, Ashlyn Morgan (Reception) 50m Rainbow swimming award, Ioan Pett (Reception), Duckling swimming award stage 3, Alice
Dowdall (Reception) – ASA
Duckling Award Grade 3. Olivia Isaac and Abbie Davies (Miss Miller) both received Duckling 4 swimming awards. Caitlin Sanders (Miss Miller) Rainbow 10m and National Plan stage one swimming award.

Junior department
TYLER HURLEY 6S, completed
a bike ride for Children in Need and raised £52. Elizabeth Dowdall (4H) ASA Water Skills Award Grade 3. Well done also to Jessica Craddock 6S and Megan Hamilton 6R who raised £68.50 for the Velindre Cancer Centre selling knitted Father Christmases.

Urdd swimming CONGRATULATIONS to our Urdd swimming team which competed recently at competed Ynysawdre swimming pool. There were many individual and team wins and all children have received certificates and Urdd membership badges. Urdd Jambori

ON February 2 pupils have the opportunity to take part in the

Urdd Jambori at the Recreation Centre.

It is a fun-filled occasion where local schools join together to sing Welsh action songs. It is hosted by Martin Geraint, a presenter on S4C. Don't miss it! If you haven't filled in your slip – send it in asap. The cost is £2.50, which includes transport.

Art club

CONGRATULATIONS to the CONGRATULATIONS to the first graduates of Litchard Primary Art Club: Porsha Roberts (2T), Shannon Jones (2P), Lucy Florence (2T), Bryony Llewellyn (2P), Tanneka Sedgeber (2P), Ollie Donaghue (2T), Reece Brown (2T), Daniel Thompson (2P), Kieran Moyles (2P). A letter will go out in January to say when the next group will begin.

Panta visit

PUPILS from both the Infant and Junior Departments went to Porthcawl Pavilion on December 14, to see the pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk.

This was a superb morning out and children and staff really enjoyed the show.

It was a mammoth task to it was a mammoth task to organise this for so many pupils, and we would like to thank Mrs Gardiner for arranging the buses and organising this Christmas treat.

Lost property
PLEASE note that any
unclaimed lost property will be

Lunch money
DINNER money for the first
week back to school is for three
days (45.40).

Christmas and a
Christmas and a
Spring term start
5, 2011.

ing credit on dinner money for days missed, please could you deduct it from this amount?

Unfortunately, if a school lunch has been ordered for your child and they go home after 11am, the lunch still has to be paid for as the food would have already been cooked.

House awards

ON December 16, we held a special assembly to award certificates and prizes for the top house point scorers and the winning house.

Well done and congratulations to the following two top house point scorers from each class:-

3S - Cai Newman & Emma

3H - Ethan Bromley & Olivia Howe.

4H - Rhys Owen & Chloe

Quinn.

5C - Iestyn Thomas & Morgan Jones

5M - Molly Raybould & Caitlin Davies

6R - Hannah Dingle & Harry

Hopkins. 6S - Jessica Craddock & Jacob

Lewis. TM - Matthew Rees & Holly

The winning house was Yellow.

Seasons greetings!
MR WILLIAMS, the governors and the staff of Litchard Primary School, would like to disposed of over the Christmas take this opportunity to wish holidays. take this opportunity to wish everyone a very merry everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy and

Spring term starts on January 5, 2011.



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Councillor Colin Osborne

The Mayor of the Vale
of Glamorgan Council extends
Seasons Greetings to all
residents of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

> Mae'r Cynghorydd Colin Osborne

Faer Vyngor Bro Morgannwg, yn estyn Cyfarchion yr Wyl i holl drigolion y Fro.

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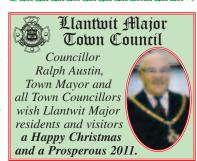
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January 6.
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today.co.uk. We look forward to hearing from you in 2011







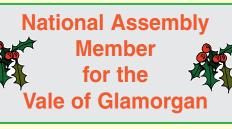
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VALE OF GLAMORGAN CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

wish the residents of the Vale

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Would like to wish all constituents a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year

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Please contact The National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1NA Tel: 02920 922578

email: Christopher.franks@wales.gov.uk



VALE MP

VOWS TO

SUPPORT

VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

Facing the challenges ahead with confidence

HIS is the last edition of The GEM of 2010 and I want to use this opportunity to thank everyone for their support throughout the

The Vale of Glamorgan is a special place and this year I received the fantastic privilege of representing our community in Parliament.

It is an absolute honour to do so and community leaders, members of the public, **GEM** reporters and editors all play a vital role in providing the gel that makes our community so special.

It has been a challenging year in many ways. The announcement on St Athan was disappointing but not wholly unexpected.

The state of the nation's finances with the unprecedented national debt, along with the increased costs to Metrix on the financial markets, together with security reviews unfortunately made the project in its original form unviable.

I am extremely optimistic, however, after the Defence Secretary told me that St Athan remained the preferred location to the Defence Training solution.

My planned pre-Christmas meeting with



Vale MP Alun Cairns

reports to **GEM** readers

Liam Fox was cancelled as a result of the weather, and will now take place early in the New Year. Again, I will stress the case in favour of our communities.

The planned closure of Vale Magistrates was also disappointing and the chairman of the Barry Bench and I are to meet the Minister during early January to press the case further.

The privilege of being the MP has also put me in touch with some fantastic people who live and work in the community; those who run charitable groups supporting some of the most vulnerable in our society. Most don't want any attention and were happy to highlight how things could be done better.

I promised to work with them to make a difference. My constituency advice surgeries have also brought a huge array of cases; some tragic and others highlighting waste, incompetence and bureaucracy.

All are important and I try to leave no stone unturned to gain justice.

Only last week, I came across a young man looking after his daughter who had been let down by the system, due to the culture of distrust. I hope my intervention will help resolve the case before Christmas.

Another case is where one-to-one care is needed for a patient, vet bureaucrats seek to overrule doctors advice. Again, someone extremely vulnerable is being let down by the sys-

The year ahead is likely to be challenging, too, as a result of the state of the nation's finances that I have already mentioned.

However, we live in a special place, with very many special people and I am sure that with the right support and the best will, we can exceed our goals in new and innovative ways.

Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

LEFT: Jane Hutt AM at the the Vale Christmas Fair.

THE Vale MP Alun favour Cairns last week of service users at work highlighted the Vale mental a very high success rate.
This process demonstrated the difficulty in branch of mental health Mind, in Commons.

He was raising con-cerns that people with mental health illnesses don't get a fair assess-ment when it comes to incapacity benefit claims.

Referring to the new Work Capability Assessment (WCA) due to be introduced to assess how much and what type of work, if any, incapaci-ty benefit claimants can do, he wanted to ensure that the failings of the current system in recog-nising mental health illnesses are not continued in the new scheme.

Mr Cairns pointed out that the local branch of action is being taken to Mind often advocates in

assessment appeals, with

the assessing people with mental health illnesses and he said he was keen to highlight the injustice to local people.
Mr Cairns said: "I met

with Mind in the Vale before the election and promised to follow up their concerns. Many with mental health problems aren't always understood and this can understood and this can lead to much greater problems with benefit assessment and the money, time and stress involved with appeal cases at a later stage. "I specifically asked Chris Grayling MP, Minister for

Minister Employment, what the new work capability assessment.

"I was really pleased to hear that the Government are determined to ensure that we do everything we can to avoid people with mental health problems being wrongly diagnosed by the Work Capability Assessment process.

"The Government is mately will mean that the Jane Hutt. decision-making process is improved – ultimately making sure that more decisions are got right first time and fewer peo-

ensure that the difference to people Government implement lives," she remarked.

Police and the council to

ensure that for those suf- the changes to the WCA fering from mental health process as soon as possi-issues are treated fairly in ble for the benefit of ble, for the benefit of those who suffer from mental health issues

Mind festive fair

MIND in the Vale held their Christmas fair at the New Jerusalem Church Barry in when. already implementing among the numer-many of the improve-ments identified by Prof Harrington, which ulti-

"Mind is a wonderful charity. I hope the funds raised will continue to help this important servple appeal.

"I will do all I can to which makes so much ensure that the difference to people's

Lamb's Tale... The

ALLY crossed over the ford by way of a small iron bridge. She walked at a nervous pace in the quiet darkness, the only sounds were the waters running over the smooth stones and the dry leaves under foot.

She welcomed the distant ghts of the local pub and the illuminated cross on the church

As she crossed the graveyard towards the church, her pace quickened to the fast beat of her heart and she gave out a sigh of relief as she turned the iron ring door handle that opened the heavy door of the church and the warmth within engulfed her.

Other teachers and helpers from the village school had arrived and were putting the fin-ishing touches to the stable scene. Baby Jesus was safely tucked into the manger and cardboard cut-outs of the ox and donkey precar-iously leaned against bales of hay, while the church warden with the aid of a ladder and fishing wire,

hung the symbolic star.

All that was missing were the children – Mary and Joseph, the Innkeeper, the Three Wise Men and the Shepherds – they were all in the lesser hall being fitted into their costumes for the dress rehearsal, under the watchful eye of Martin Richards.

Martin was the largest boy in the fifth form, who, through 'self election' had secured himself the role of director, with Sally as his mentor. But Sally, as his teacher, had to smile, for Martin took his

part as director very seriously.

He had started to wear his spectacles and to carry a clipboard – all very theatrical! Nevertheless, he rehearsed the

by MARI **GOODYEAR**

other children well, going over their lines, telling them where to stand, and his casting was excellent.

The nativity play was to take

place the following night, on Christmas Eve, after the carol singing and the Christmas bless ing from the vicar. The whole village would turn out to support the annual event, a tradition not to be missed. It was for children, by the children, and this year directed and produced by the children.

Sally, however, had to be very Sally, however, nau to be very firm with Martin when he suggested a real donkey. "Too disruptive," she said, and a real camel, "too expensive", she explained and a real cow, "too mucky", had been her excuse, and here to be a proposed to the sall of the sall

mucky", had been ner excuse, and before being asked by Martin, she said, "no to a real baby" as well.

Martin obviously went for realism in life, which Sally respected. However, she felt she should draw the line under some of his ideas before the nativity play. ideas, before the nativity play took on the look of Noah's Ark. When the children were ready

and in place for the dress rehears and in place for the dress renear al, Martin walked quietly from the back of the church. In his arms, he carried a wool blanket that he laid at the foot of the manger, and to the children's delicits he wooled a behalval delight he revealed a baby lamb

He packed some hay around it and turning to Sally he said, in a matter of fact way: "He is premature and must be kept warm." He then cued the innkeeper and the play rehearsal began.

Sally was speechless, but the children's faces said it all, so the lamb remained at the foot of the manger, and no-one challenged the director.

The very next evening after the performance had ended on that cold, dark Christmas Eve, the congregation loitered as they emerged from the church. Never had the organ sounded so true, or the singing so sweet, but the nativity play had hit a spot that sent holy shivers down the villagers' spines.

There was hardly a dry eye in

the congregation when Mary delivered her tender closing lines "The journey of life is often dark, but we have the Son of God to light the way," she said and the hay stirred and the bleat of a lamb filled the church and left the congregation in silence, reminding everyone of the vulnerability of the new born and the true meaning of Christmas.

Last to leave the church that evening were Sally and Martin, carrying arms full of costumes. Martin locked the church door behind them behind them.

behind them.

He had spent most of the evening in the vestry toilet and still looked a little pale, but Sally was glad to have his company as they walked the well-trodden path across the graveyard. The night was still, lit only by a watery moon.

In a positive way, she said: "Well done Martin, despite your stage nerves, I think that you may have found your vocation. It was an excellent production." Martin seemed oblivious of the

impact that his lamb had made upon the congregation, and Sally wasn't altogether sure that he had witnessed the closing moments of the play.
"By the way, who took the

lamb home tonight?" Sally asked.
"Couldn't bring him", Martin
answered. "I told you, he was premature, he died last night."

review local pub's licence FOLLOWING a licence, and for the cil's licensing commitmet. Our main concern request by South licensing authority to tee, said: "This is the first with licensed premises is take necessary class time the council has been to ensure that the license

Vale Council's Licensing Committee agreed steps" to be put in place at the Railway Hotel, Penarth.

The move follows ecent incidents of violence which occurred on the premises, resulting in five police officers requiring hospital treatment for their injuries.

A full review of the premises licence is due to

next year.

A Vale Council allows the police to trig- bottles. ger a fast-track process to

while dining out.

Wales Police, the take necessary steps time the council has been to ensure that the licens-vale Vale (Council's within 48 hours, pending asked by South Wales ing objectives of preventa full review

'South Wales Police e has made an application for "interim an expedited review on Wednesday, December 15, and an interim hearing was held two days later on December 17.

She continued: number of interim measures were agreed pending a full hearing which, under the legislation, must be held within 28

days.
"The interim measures take place on January 12, include restrictions on the hours alcohol can be served, increased staff on spokeswoman said: "The duty and a restriction on Licensing Act 2003 the use of small glass

Coun John Thomas. premises the chairman of the coun-

Companies offer

healthy options

LOCAL outdoor fitness company, Fat

Gennaro Ristorante Italiano of High Street to offer health-conscious people of

Barry and the Vale a healthy option

Loss Fit Camp, have teamed up with Da

Fat Loss Fit Camp provides a 'guaranteed results

service' for those looking to drop weight or body fat and also get fit. They cater for all abilities and

provide a support service in the form of a mem-bers' only website offering full nutrition guidance,

meal planning and recipes, exercise videos and

members' chat forum.

Martin Haley, the owner of FLFC, said: "We

have a strict nutrition regime for campers to follow but this is not a diet; it is a lifestyle change. That is

how we can guarantee results of people losing a clothing size in a month if they need to.
"We have sat down with the staff at Da Gennaro,

one of the most popular Italian restaurants in south Wales, and put together a healthy option wishing to

stay in shape and still eat out."

Fat Loss Fit Camp can be contacted on 07919

973884/www.fatlossfitcamp.co.uk; Da Gennaro is

at 71 High Street, Barry, telephone 01446 732557.

licensing objectives are concluded.



The GEM Winter Pet Food Appeal

Police to consider an ing crime and disorder,

expedited review of a preventing public nuilicensed premises and it sance, public safety and

shows we can, and will, protecting children from act quickly to ensure the harm are promoted," he

sponsored by



More than ever, our local animal shelters are under massive strain to home and feed an ever growing number of pets, that, for one reason or another, are no longer in their own homes.

Most pet owners treat their pets as part of the familŷ and will even be including them in the family Christmas presents!

If you can help feed a sheltered animal this winter, please bring your pet food donation to The GEM in Cowbridge and we will get it to one of the local shelters.



Thank you, from all the animals!

Cyfarchion y Tymor Season's greetings

Yn hytrach nag abfon cerdyn, rydym yn ysgrifennu ein cyfarchion ar y poster hwn ac yn rhoi arian i'r NSPCC.

Instead of sending a card, we are writing our festive message on this poster and donating to the NSPCC.

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MINUS 20 AT BASE CAMP

Second time lucky as councillor hits heights on Everest

lor John Spanswick recently returned from a trek to Mount Everest Base Camp, where temperatures plunged to an icy -20 degrees.

The borough council-lor first tried the trek in 2006, but failed to reach Base Camp due to severe dehydration. Four years on, he completed his dream of reaching the Himalayan landmark and is on track to raise more than £2,500 for the Mayor's Civic Charity appeal fund.

A keen walker and

mountaineer, he said: "The feeling when I finally made it there, was

absolutely amazing.
"The adventure started in Kathmandu when I boarded a 15-seater plane heading for Lukla in the foothills of the Himalayas. Lukla is known as the world's most dangerous airport and it is it is

uine charities.

proper ID badge.

and registration number.



eight-day walk from Lukla to Everest Base including two Camp, days of acclimatising.
"Most people don't

this can take on your body. Being so high above sea level makes the oxygen much thinner and can cause high altitude mountain sickness, which can be life threat-ening. He

most dangerous airport as it is literally a landing strip on the side of a mountain. Very scary.

"Then I faced an "Bull was determined on make it this time, if only to give my poor wife some peace, as she has had to listen to me

Watch out for

charity scams!

AS part of a nationwide campaign, the

Charity Commission, the independent reg-

ulator of charities in Wales and England, is

giving advice to the public this Christmas to

make sure their money goes only to gen-

The Charity Commission advises that if you are in any doubt about a charity collector, collection bag

or fundraising materials, check the charity's name

You can find these on the Charity Commission's

website at www.charitycommission.gov.uk
Always check whether a collector is wearing a

going on about it for the last four years. I have now promised to shut up

and she is very happy!"

Not only did Coun
Spanswick make it to
Base Camp, he also
climbed a part of neighbouring Kalar Pattar until his Sherpa guid sent him back due to concerns about frostbite set

added: "The strange thing was we wore so many layers that some times we were actually too hot, but there were times when it was very, very cold. Even in our room, it was minus 2 and temperatures at night fell to minus 20."

There was a poignant moment when he built a small stone memorial at Base Camp in a tribute to his father, Doug, who passed away just three weeks before the trip.

He has returned to

Bridgend, but people can still sponsor him, with all money going to the Mayor's three main charities: GLAZE, the prostate charity for Wales; Heronsbridge ities: Wales; Heronsbridge School; and The Stroke Association. (Telephone 01656 646534).

Death of leading Porthcawl business figure

A LEADING figure in tourism development in Porthcawl has just died.

John Bowen was the general manager of the Seabank Hotel for many years and later took over the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel, also in the town.

Mr Bowen was a founder member in the 1970s of the Porthcawl Tourism Association and served as its treasurer. He lived in Porthcawl for many years and leaves a widow Pat and three children.

Former tourism chair-man Chris Smart paid tribute to him: "John was very well known in the town and was active with organisations such as the Round Table and

41 Club.
"In those days, The Seabank was one of the top hotels in south Wales and was the venue for many of Porthcawl's din ner dances and balls. and as such was a focal point for social and community life in the town. John was at the

heart of it." He went on: "John was a man of great integrity, charm and humour and was an oldstyle hotel manager who became involved with the community. He was instrumental in promoting Porthcawl as a tourist destination."

His funeral took place on Wednesday at Margam Crematorium

Angry Porthcawl residents want 'UDI' declaration

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Coun Aspey went on: Council taxpayers in Porthcawl have paid for a lot of facilities to be placed elsewhere in the borough but we have nothing – no swimming pool, no sports centre, zilch. Our money has seeped away and the fear is that the profits from the regeneration will do the same.
"We could end up

with just a supermarket, more new houses and no extra facilities at all."

Coun Aspey said that the regeneration scheme would result in the biggest transformation of the town since it was first developed in the

"Once the land is gone, it's gone for ever, so it's imperative that we get maximum benefit for residents.

"BCBC are only the caretakers of this land on our behalf. It belongs to the council taxpayers, not just of Porthcawl but of the whole borough."

Coun Aspey stated that unrest could lead to demands for a community referendum into how BCBC has man-

aged the regeneration. "Indeed, there a "Indeed, there are people asking if we even want to remain part of BCBC at all, and should try and go it alone. Unless the council starts being more open, they could end up with a full-scale revolt on their hands?

Coun Aspey said that the feeling out on the street was that people wanted nothing more to do with BCBC.

"If a vote was held

tomorrow, the vast majority would vote to break away. It only takes a group of people to kick things off and act as a catalyst. There could be cil, said that 2011 was all-out war between the council and the people of this town," he

Another of those ejected was Graham Walters, who is a founder of the Facebook

site.
"I went along with
John Howley to the
forum, because of the
lack of information
being given to the ordinary people of the nary people town," he said. of the

being "We are ignored as residents.

"We wanted to know what was going on, but they only seemed con-cerned about how we knew about the meet-

ing."
However, the two men have now been invited to meet Andrew Parry Jones, who is the borough regeneration officer, to discuss their concerns.

"That's a positive step," added Mr Walters. "I think the borough council should realise that the groups it has invited on the forum do not represent the aver-

age person in the town.
"Neither do we, but we are trying to get more people involved." Mr Walters said that

the town council should stop sitting on its hands and start putting pres-sure on the borough council.

They keep saying that the regeneration is nothing to do with them but they are elected councillors and they must start demanding information on behalf of the town.

"They can make a noise and influence the borough council. They must stop copping out.

Coun David Deere, Conservative group leader on the town coungoing to be a critical year for regeneration. "This year will be make or break. I agree

that we need to be kept fully informed and I will be proposing that we have an item on regener-ation on the agenda of every meeting. That will keep it at the forefront of

council business.
"We will monitor the progress of the scheme and also take the tem-perature of the public in Porthcawl."

A BCBC spokesman said that the forum was not a public meeting, so the public was not entitled to attend. She said that a journalist from another newspaper had been invited to attend.

When asked why a journalist from The GEM had not been invit-ed, she said that it was believed that the reporter was invited to attend by Porthcawl SHOUT.

The GEM then asked

if Porthcawl SHOUT was in fact running the forum and deciding who attended.

We again asked why invitations to the press were not sent out in the usual way to The GEM, as well as other papers, or was the council being partial as to which paper was allowed to have a representative present?

We also pointed out that the press has no spemat the press has no special rights to attend meetings – only the same rights as the public. If we can attend, so can the public.

We have asked which piece of legislation the

piece of legislation the council is using to defend its position of excluding the public, but allowing the press to

remain.

We await this further

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Town Hall, Talbot Street, Maesteg, January 4, 10am - 6pm; January 5, 10am - 6pm; January 6, 10am - 6pm; January 10am - 4pm.

Trinity Church, John Street, Porthcawl. January 5, 10am - 6pm;

MP's advice

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Clinic, Tesco Stores, Castle Street, Maesteg. Please call 01443 622193 or e-mail donor.appointments@wales.nhs.uk to make one. January 28, 10.45am - 1.45pm; 3.15pm - 6.30pm.

For a comprehensive list of all blood donation sessions. www.welshblood.org.uk or call 0800 252266.

Ogmore

HUW IRRANCA-DAVIES, MP for Ogmore, will be undertaking surgeries on Friday, January 14, between 11am and 12noon in the Aberkenfig area (tele-phone 01656 737777 for details).

Best wishes Christmas and the New Year. Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda.

Bridgend county borough is blanketed in snow and ice as the big freeze descends





THE snow and ice may be a nuisance to the general public, but for photographers it is a chance to capture that special image.

Regular GEM photographers Malcolm Nugent and Mandy Thomas were out and about after the snow settled and took these striking images.

(Malcolm's are marked 'MN' and Mandy's are marked 'MT'.)













ABOVE: A snowman on Porthcawl promenade!

Out and About with The Gl

Let Screen Talk take you through the festive minefield of the Christmas movie!

NOW used to be a thing of joy and of wonder, allowing you to build snow men, have snowball fights and sledge down hills; yet, the older you get, the more it becomes an inconvenience, an annovance that puts your best laid plans to waste.

Take this column - it was due to be a review of the hotly-anticipated Tron:Legacy; however, tonnes of white stuff made Screen Talk just another victim of the

Beaten, but not broken, it instead allowed an opportunity to look at that most timely of genres, the Christmas film, and there have been plenty. So, in advance of the

annual Screen Talk top ten films of the year, let's take a look at some of the festive flicks that really stand out at this

time of year.

Elf - This tale of a human raised by elves in the North Pole, but forced to go back to America when he reaks havoc is one of Will Ferrell's finest comedic turns.

Playing the naive but well meaning Buddy, Ferrell's innocent plays up the comedy for all its worth, whether it's thinking a store Santa is the Santa or mistaking a man of small proportions for an elf.

Jon Favreau's direction hits the spot superbly keeping the sugary schmaltz to a minimum, but this is grasps it with both hands. Ferrell's film and he

A hilarious film for both adults and chil-

dren. *Home Alone -* To people of a certain age, including myself, the McCallister being left at home over Christmas while his family go to France, is one of the quintessential Christmas films.

Certainly, the film could have been set at any time period, but the late John Hughes cleverly used the Christmas setting to wring maximum emotional impact when not setting up elaborate traps for two bumbling crooks.

While the spectacle

came from these, Hughes and director Chris Colombus kept the emotional stakes high, with Kevin's mum desperate to get home in time to spend Christmas with her son and his relationship with the mysterious old man Marley giving a poignant feel to what is an entertaining film.

Santa Claus: The Movie - Much like Val Kilmer, Santa Claus: The Movie hasn't aged well at all. While once the mainstay of the Christmas Eve schedules, it has taken a backseat in recent years; a shame, as it is the sort of film that stays with you once you've seen it.

Having occupied many hours of my youth, the film tells the story of how Santa came into being, and then how an elf called Patch (played by the late Dudley Moore) teams up with the evil corporate toy manufac-turer B.Z (John Lithgow) to try and put Santa out of business.

With its gorgeous depictions of the North Pole and the toy work-shops, the film isn't exactly a classic by any means, but with a heavy dollop of seasonal joy and a life lesson for us all, it is a wonderful film to sit back and

enjoy.
It's A Wonderful Life - Hardly an original

Last month's litter

saw 17 volunteers spend-

ing a productive hour,

helping to remove fish-

ing line, plastic bottles

drinks cans, nylon rope

its pick at Watchtower Bay

BOXING DAY

BEACH CLEAN

BARRY-BASED and members are asked

environmental to "wrap up warm and

group, 'Friends of wear suitable footwear."

Barry Beaches' will

Last month's litte

y Beac. holding us litter

pick on Boxing Day

As a festive, 'Thank you' all volunteers will

be able offered a free hot

The group will be

mince pie, and

December

at 2.30pm.

mulled wine.

TALK



by GARETH **JAMIESON**

choice, granted, but this Christmas classic uplifting and pushing all the right buttons. The story of George Bailey (the eternal everyman James Stewart) being shown how important his life has been by the angel Clarence, is one of the most wonderful festive films – so highly regarded that it was voted the number one most powerful film of all time by the American Film Institute.

A mixed reaction welcomed it upon release and Frank Capra's film didn't achieve recognition until it received repeated television showings in the 1970s – thankful-ly, one of the finest films ever made was brought back to public consciousness, and it is

still as powerful today.

The Grinch - Much like Santa Claus: The Movie, The Grinch isn't exactly a classic, yet Ron Howard's direction and an immersive turn from a prosthetic-wearing Jim Carrey in the title role makes for a thoroughly diverting

100 minutes. Based on the Dr Seuss story, it stretches the narrative of the

Grinch who stole Christmas, yet with the wonderful sets and look of the characters remaining wholly faithful to their depiction in the book. The film is a

charming if lightweight watch that again does a good job of reminding us of the 'true meaning of Christmas'

Scrooged - This twisted take on Dickens' A Christmas Carol stars Bill Murray as a cynical television executive who is forced to look at his life after being visited by ghosts of Christmases past, present and future.

A clever update on the classic story, Murray's manic energy makes this film hugely entertaining, delivering the right mix of seasonal life lessons along

with plenty of laughs. Richard Donner's direction is superb, mar-rying scale to the humour, while Murray is at his best in this hilarious, yet touching,

comedy.

Bad Santa - The antithesis of the usual yuletide fare, this Santa doesn't care whose been naughty or nice, rather his concerns are women, alcohol and keeping an eye on the department store he's about to rob with the

aid of his accomplice.

Billy Bob Thornton is absolutely watchable in this darkly comic tale with a sweet filling, his criminal softening under the auspices of a young boy and a woman.

The script from Glenn Ficarra and John Requa is a superb mix of foul mouthed humour with a hint of sweetness lurking underneath. Bad Santa is an overlooked gem, though one for the older members

of the family to enjoy!

The Polar Express

dalliance with motion capture (he has since gone onto make both Beowulf and the underwhelming A Christmas Carol) is notable as much for the odd looking characters as it is for its seasonal charm.
While the motion

capture doesn't exactly work, with the characters (fleshed out, via technology, by Tom Hanks among others) looking cross eyed and highly unnatural, the film is an important step in the process that led to

last year's Avatar.
With Zemeckis finding his feet, the direction is as skilled as can be, and technical shortcomings aside, it is a pretty satisfying adven-

ture.

Now there are some honourable mentions for the likes of The Nightmare Before Christmas, National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation, Miracle on 34th Street (the original not the mawkishbeyond-words remake starring Richard Attenborough) as well as the classics such as White Christmas and Holiday Inn.

But beware any film that contains the words Santa Clause' in the title - the Tim Allenstarrers are as welcome an addition to Christma as a big plate of sprouts and should be given the equivalent wide berth!

May you all have a wonderful Christmas and new year, and keep your eyes peeled on January 6, when norma service will be resumed and Screen Talk will be unveiling its ten best films of 2010!

Choir's concert hailed as 'a great success'

Society's Christmas concert with the dulcet Caitlin tones of Jones sounding the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City' through All Saints Church.

During the first half, the choir performed Bach's Christmas Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* (Parts 1 and 2), a difficult work, but good preparation made for a successful per-

Boxing Day swim challenge!

WHITMORE Bay Surf Life Saving Club members are once again braving the cold waters of the Bristol Channel on Boxing Day.

A club spokeman told The GEM: "We would like to take the opportunity to invite members of the public who wish to join us for our annual Boxing Day swim.
"We will be meeting

at the Lifeguard Station Western Shelter at 11am on December 26.

"All are welcome just bring plenty of warm clothing!"

HUNT MEET G L A M O R G A N Hunt's Boxing Day meet will now be held Cowbridge Monday, December 27 at 11am in Arthur John's car park, North Road.

Hounds and horses will later move down the High Street.

This may be subject to review in the event of dangerous ice.

Choral formance. The choir talented Emma Arscott. Singing an aria from Sue Thomson, contralto, Andrew Mathews, Morris showed the bass/baritone Gareth Morris, tenor. James Bull, organist, shone in his accompani-

Each soloist gave a special feeling to their arias. Gareth Morris showed his amazing skill, singing the extremely difficult fast runs in the aria 'Haste Ye Shepherds'.

Before the interval,

Mary Cule was presented with the programme prize, a full to overflowing Christmas hamper. The second half of

the concert concentrated on carols sung by the choir, and solos from the guest artists, accompanied on the piano by

Singing an aria from Carmen by Bizet Gareth Morris whole range of his amazing tenor voice.

Sue's deep alto voice showed well in Panis Angelicus.

Andrew, with his rich quality bass baritone voice entranced the audience in his singing of The Trumpet Shall Sound from Handel's Messiah.

The choir will return to their scheduled rehearsals in the New Year on Wednesday, January 12, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm at Crossway Methodist Church.

New members are welcome Beryl Weale, chairman

'Buy right pet at right time' urges the PDSA

tion for the festive season, PDSA is they need time, money and commitment. reminding us to put animals first and animals first and passed about as gifts, with little concern for Christmas.

'Buy the right pet at the right time' is the char-

ity's message. Each January, pet rescue services dozens of calls reporting

WITH homes across nary surgeon, Sean the Vale and Wensley, said: "The nov-Bridgend decking elty of a pet as a surprise the halls and stock- gift may be exciting, but ing up in prepara- pets live for years and

"Thinking, creatures should not be their wellbeing.

"It is unacceptable that re-homing centres across the country are inundated with unwanted animals that have been bought as presents, then discarded abandoned pets. presents, then discarded personal presents, then discarded presents, then discarded presents presents, then discarded presents presents, then discarded presents presen

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and glass from the beach. The co-ordinator of Runners-up, who won a pack of the Stock, Treoes; Mrs stamps were Jackie Harris, Barry; and M Wright, Llanmaes; Mrs J Morris, Porthcawl. FoBB, Coun Rob Curtis said: "We have proved meeting at the Knap the cynics wrong ... local Terrace car park (by the people do care about the E Walsh, Dinas Powys; public toilets) at 2.30pm. state of their beaches." Brenda Roe, Rhoose; you all!

recent competition to Fonmon; Alice Phillips, Mrs EV pack of festive Wallace Norma Webb, Barry; H Wenvoe; and Gromit stamps
were Brian Fisher of Evans, Porthcawl;
Dinas Powys, Mr T Carol Brown, Barry; Dinas Powys, Mr T Carol Brown, Barry, Whiting of Cowbridge, Pat Good, Sully; Mrs A Jessica Cooper of Jinks, Miskin; Graham Llantwit Major and Thorne, St Athan; Mrs Mrs Linda J Pike of M Bradshaw, Cowbridge; Mrs A Stock, Treoes; Mrs R

Harris, Barry; and Mrs Congratulations

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GBM **Family Notices**

GRIFFITHS Penny

Died peacefully at home on December 18th, with her family around her.

A loving and supportive wife of John, a very kind and generous mother, who was always positive and encouraging about the choices her daughters made.

She clearly delighted in her grandchildren and was very involved in their lives.

Her friends will remember her for her wide range of interests and involvement in the community Friends are welcome to attend St James Church in Wick on Friday 7th January at 2.30pm.

No flowers please, donations if desired to Parkinson's UK, Freepost RLUB-RSHA-KSET, London, SWIV 1EJ

LAWRENCE

Ken
Sadly on December 15 2010, Ken from
Thompson Street Barry, passed away.
Will be sadly missed by his wife Norma and children
Tony, Jeff, Jenny, Terry and Brian. Wonderful father-in
law, gramp and great grampy to all. Funeral to take
place on Wednesday December 29, 1.30pm at Adams
Funeral Home followed by cremation at Thornhill
Crematorium at 3pm. Flowers may be sent to AG Adams

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Section 17(5)

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OTICE IS GIVEN THAT an Licensing Authority) for a PREMISES LICENCE

to permit licensable activiti which it is proposed will be carri on, on or from the premises show below.

below or from the prelimess show the application may be inspected between the hours of Monday to Thursday 0830 to 1700 hours and Friday 0830 to 1630 hours at Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend CFF 14WB or by visiting the authority's website: Any interested party or responsible authority may make representations in respect of the application, which must be submitted, in writing, to the following address before the date shown below: The County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CFFI 4WB.

Name of applicant:
Shebul Ali
Name and postal addre

The Raj Restaurant, 3-5 Hendre Road, Pencoed CF35 5NW. Statement of intended licensa activities: Late night refreshm

provision only -Sun-Thur: 23.00pm-00.00am; Fri-Sat: 23.00pm-01.00am; Mon-Sun: 17.30pm-00.00am; Fri-Sat: 17.30pm-01.00am

Fri-Sat: 17.30pm-01.00am. Date by which representation must be made: 15/12/10-12/01/1 This notice remains in force from and including the day after the giving of this notice to the licensin authority, namely 14/12/10, for 2 consecutive days.

an offence knowingly or reck ly to make a false statement in nection with an application maximum fine on summar viction is £5,000.

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headboard £10. 01656 789096. (49)

sofas, armchair, pale grey/blue draylon £250. Tel: 01446 773135. (49) College. HINARI MICROWAVE Black/chrome, still in box £25. Hinari multi att. hand blender & carver, still in box £25. Pine 4 drawer chest and country mirror £40. Solid pine

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Oakfield children impress VIP visitor with festive efforts!



Jane Hutt AM with Deputy Head Jo Barnfield and pupils in year-6 with laptops.

PUPILS at Oakfield Primary at Oakfield School with pupils enjoy-School were hard at work making Christmas cards for family

"It was good to see the children ing Christmas cards for family "It was good to see the children and friends when the Vale AM working at their laptops and to see the their efforts.

"There was a real Christmas spirit remarked.

Jane Hutt popped in to admire computer equipment provided by Bryn Hafren School, which will help them in developing their IT skills," she

Mixed response for Ogmore-by-Sea housing schemes

ONE of the two which would have to be applications develop new houses in Ogmore-by-Sea in Ogmore-by-Sea Bridgend County has been approved Borough Council, to by Vale planners.

They voted to approve an application from Wig Fach proper-ties to build 83 new houses, convert an old property into two homes and create a pub in Slon Farm.

The development will take place on the site of a disused residential caravan park.

However, approval is subject to a consider the application number of conditions, and to come up with suggestions about why Hazelwood

time from County build 84 houses on the site of the former Ogmore residential education centre, which the council owns, has been deferred.

Planning officer Rob Thomas said that while from residents. members voted against approval of the applica-tion, which was being recommended by offi-cers, the matter was

would use the existing subsequent meeting, with such a big increase Hazelwood access probably in February.

to improved. now stand, that applica-now stand, that applica-tion remains undetermined.

There was huge opposition to both schemes in the village. The BCBC proposal would use Somerset View as its access which led to caused protests

Objectors pointed out that the village would increase in size by 40 per cent if both schemes are approved deferred to enable schemes are approved – members to further with the number of consider the application houses rising from the

present 400 to 569. They argue that Ogmore does not have with the council. It now come back at a Signal of Cope

Carers qualify for NVQs after college courses



NVQ Care learners celebrate qualifying with Barry College principal, Kay Martin.

CARE workers in the Vale and Cardiff have received health and social care qualifications after completing NVQ courses at Barry

Speaking at the ceremony college principal Kay Martin, said: "Care is one of the largest employers in Cardiff and the Vale.

"This is one of the most important areas of work we do at the college - helping people who are at work to upskill to move on and progress.

Double Dragon beer winners

THE three lucky winners of the Felinfoel Brewery competition were: First, Steve Thorne, Cwm Talwg, Barry received 24 cans of Double Dragon.

The runners-up were Maureen Burnside, Bryntirion, Bridgend, and Sue Speed, Colwinston, received 12 cans of Double

We welcome your news and views - email: gemeditorial @tindlenews.co.uk

Welsh legend put on the spot



Hot shot John inspires pupils at Cynffig school



John Hartson with some of the pupils at Cynffig Comprehensive School.

CYNFFIG Comprehensive about achieving their own ambipupils were able to grill tions – whether that is becoming was inspirational – it was a fan-welsh international foot-John Hartson baller John Hartson "It was a real insight into a Ieuan Grabham, year-10 through the medium of man who has aspirations to added: "I really enjoyed meetboth Welsh and English become our national coach and ing John Hartson and it was about his aspirations as a pupils and staff thoroughly child; his career as a footballer, and how his profes-school would like to thank John learning about how much work sion helped him to beat cancer.

Non Lewis, head of Welsh happiness." said: "John highlighted that achieving his football dream was sion was p

to follow a more academic route. a famous Welshman."

for visiting and wish him all the best with his future health and

The question and answer session was part of 'Cyfarfod y down to his commitment and Cymry' (Meet the Welsh) event Bridgend, is a thriving secondary

Jessica Day, year-13 said: ""o

great to understand his life and how he overcame cancer.

he had to put in to becoming a professional footballer. I know now that I need to train harder if I want to follow his footsteps!" Cynffig Comprehensive School, down to his commitment and Cymry' (Meet the weish) event Blugena, was missing training hard every day. He left to encourage bringing Wales school that caters for over 700 students inspired and enthused into the classroom.

> BRIDGEND County Borough Council has been awarded 'charter status' by the Welsh Local Government Association for its support to elected members.

Council Leader Coun Mel Nott said: "This is a fantastic achievement for the council. The authority recognises that the role of the councillor is a demanding, busy and diverse one and offers each of the 54 members a great deal of support, training and development throughout their

"I believe this sends an important message to residents that we want to work with all councillors to ensure they have a clear understanding of their role, the right training to develop their skills, and the guidance and support they need to do

Dave the panto cow's award!

PORTHCAWL panto cow, Dave. has beaten off all corners in a national competition to win the title of Ben & Jerry's theatrical Cow of the Year!.

As a result Porthcawl Grand Pavilion theatre has won £1,000 which will go towards fixing damage from a fire earli er this year.
Dave, the rare pink

and blue Friesian, who resides at the Pavilion, won the top prize for his dance skills, improvisation, stage presence, style and cow quirki-

A spokeswoman said: "Ben & Jerry's scoured the nation's stages for months to find the top five thespian cows, impressive enough to truly stand out in their field. Thousands voted online and all five finalists had their jazz hooves crossed in anticipation of today's result."

Dave told The GEM:

"I can't believe I won! It's moooovelous! To be crowned the winner and beat all of the other wor thy panto cows has made my year!
"I want to thank

everyone for voting for me and make sure you come and see me in my starring role in Jack and the Beanstalk. All that is left to say is Moorry Christmas!"

Mark Phillips, general manager, at Porthcawl Grand Pavilion said: " This is good news for the Grand Pavilion, as here was a fire in April which caused major damage to the stage area and a number of shows and a youth theatre performance were can-

celled.
"The winnings will go towards new stage cur-tains and a moo-ving spot light for Dave.

LOLA has a nose for sniffing out illegal immigrants

RIGHT: James Niven with Lola (left) and Wilson – the 'dream team' of detection.

LOLA the wonder dog, a four-year-old German shorthaired pointer and her Bridgend-born handler, James Niven, are spearheading the drive against illegal immigrants.

Almost 500 have been detained, thanks to Lola's super-sensitive nose.

James and his fouregged friend work for Flintshire detection dog company Wagtail UK, on the UK Border Agency's work to stem the tide of displaced people trying to cross the Channel from France into Britain. James (37), a former RAF Police dog handler

said:
"Lola just has a phe-"Lola just has a phenomenal nose on her. We dogs that James uses in do."
were checking lorries at the Channel ports, where Calais and she was 14 he is based with other in the RAF, where he met lines of lorries away Wagtail UK staff and Collin Singer and from the truck she was indicating.

"We checked and it His other dog is He also served in indicating.
"We checked and it

ner and inside one of the detection of over 200

away. James said. The most she has all sorts but you don't aver caught at one time is want a docile, quiet dog ever caught at one time is want a doc 17 in a container of dog for this job. food - even that didn't put her off. If they're

ner and inside one of the bins there was a man – illegal immigrants, she had picked up the including one haul of 18 scent from over 100 feet in a single container.

James said: "He's up to the standard of the support of the support

"You need a dog that will keep going, that will there, Lola will find stick to the task, that's them. into everything because
Lola is one of two that's what they have to

Cyprus.

He also served in indicating. UK Border Agency. Cyprus.

"We checked and it His other dog is He also served in was full of wheelie bins Wilson, a Springer Northern Ireland and but she was indicating Spaniel, whose powers of Belize before his final the front right hand cor- smell have led to the posting at RAF St Athan.

Top award for Maesteg's 'inspirational' teacher

MAESTEG University. Comprehensive teacher, Jan Elias, has received the University O x f o r d Inspirational

Teachers' Award.
First-year Oxford
undergraduates were asked to nominate a teacher or careers advisor who inspired them to apply to the prestigious university, as well as fostered their passion for a particular subject or supported them through the application process.

Former Maesteg pupil Catherine Jenkins nomi-nated Mrs Elias for the award and in the New Year, will be sent a framed University of certificate
by vice
r, Professor Oxford signed Chancellor, Professor Andrew Hamilton, as well as book vouchers for the school.
Chair of Governors

Coun Keith Edwards added: "This award recognises the effort and dedication Jan has made in inspiring many of our pupils during the course of her career. The governors have always been aware of the contribution she has made to our school and we are delighted that she has been recognised by such a prestigious university as an inspirational teacher."

Mrs Elias said: "I am delighted to have been honoured with an Inspirational teacher award from Oxford

"During my career, I have been fortunate to have been fortunate to teach many young peo-ple with enquiring minds and academic ability but it was a real privilege to teach Catherine Jenkins, who nominated me, as she is such a gifted student with a yoracious with voracious

appetite for learning.
"There can be no greater accolade for any

teacher than recognition by a student that we have helped to fuel their passion for a subject and encouraged them to have the highest of aspirations.

"I am so proud that "I am so proud mat Catherine felt I was instrumental in her decision to study English at Oxford and chose to nominate me for the award, which is a pinnacle of my career."

Porthcawl student called to the Bar

O R M E R Porthcawl student Katie Walmsley has been presented with her diploma in Bar vocational studies at Gray's Inn November 25.

The following day she attended a graduation ceremony at Bristol Cathedral.

Educated at Ysgol Y
Ferch O'r Sger and
P o r t h c a w l
Comprehensive School,
she attended Swansea University to obtain her diploma in law.

diploma in law.
Katie is the daughter
of local artist Tracey
Walmsley. Proud mum,
Tracey, together with
equally proud grandparents Yvonne and Lyn, all
attended the presentation



ABOVE: Katie Walmsley, who has received her diploma in Bar vocational studies.

BCBC WINS AWARD FOR COUNCILLOR SUPPORT



The community spirit to the fore as snow and ice hit the borough

out the neighbour' many local people.

Bridgend County Borough Council has praised the community for the way in which it has rallied around the elderly and vulnerable.

Some of the council's own care workers walked own care workers walked for miles through the more than 1,000 tonnes for miles through the some early in the mornsnow early in the morning to get to the old and
disabled people that they
look after, and the
Abertawe Bro
Morgannwg Health
Gritting teams have Morgannwg Health Board has thanked its own staff and members of the public for rallying

hospitals who were attend

unable to get there.

Other off duty staff came in to provide cover for those unable to make it because of the weather.

A spokesman for assisted the Meals at BCBC said that their Home service and home dedicated home care care staff to reach resi-workers have made sure that the people they look after have continued to receive visits, personal care and a hot meal.

The council's gritting

crews have been working around the clock to keep the borough's main roads

Teams from the high-way's department have been out 24 hours a day since last Thursday's snowfall keeping priority routes open and passable

Hand gangs have also gritted some of the pave-ments and side roads in Bridgend, Maesteg, and Porthcawl town centres and parts of Pencoed as

in make use of the grit on advised to ring ahead paths and paths although these have been journey. severely depleted this week.

cleaning services have been redeployed to assist with snow clearance.

also been sent out to help in specific cases such as residents needing to get around local hospitals.
Residents owning 4x4
vehicles offered their cars and gritting side
services to ferry staff into

> In Cefn Glas, a team gritted a road so that a patient could get to hospital for urgent dialysis.

Crews have also assisted the Meals at

Environment The Agency has loaned the council some 4 x 4s to reach residents in valley areas who need a hot

Staff from the council have also worked hard to keep the cemeteries accessible although it is up to each funeral direc-tor to decide if a funeral goes ahead especially where cemeteries are difficult for mourners to reach. The crematorium in Coychurch has

remained open as well.
Any postponed funerals will be re-scheduled as soon as possible.

Some of the council's

THIS week's well. Crews are also libraries and leisure refilling the dozens of weather brought out the 'good the broughs othat residents and businesses can cancelled. Residents are

journey.

The council has also suspended all waste and Staff from the street eaning services have suspended an master are recycling collections this week, up to and includ-Christmas Eve. because of the dangers of icy roads.

Council leader Mel

Nott said that winter was a testing time for the council and this year, difficult conditions ha come earlier than usual.

"We have some wellprocedures in but ultimately. sometimes the weather will present us with extra problems." place

The decision to cancel refuse and recyling col-lections was done for safety reasons: "We cannot risk our heavy collection vehicles sliding in the ice and causing damage to a property, another vehicle or, worst of all, any of our residents. That

would be unforgivable."

He praised staff in all departments for their commitment: "It's easy to look at the things that are stopped or held up because of the bad because of the bac weather but let's spend a moment thinking about the extra miles people are going to help another member of the communi ty. I think they deserve

our thanks. The ABM health board has been operating co-ordination centres at

each major hospital site.
A spokesman said that hospitals have experi-enced difficulties over the past few days because of the severe

Due to some staff being unable to get into work and for the safety of patients, they have can-celled a number of outpa-tient clinics and will rearrange appointments as

soon as possible.

The spokesman went on: "The support and commitment of our staff has been outstanding. Those staff who have been able to get in have been redeployed to priorbeen redeployed to priority areas. Also, many off duty staff have made their way in and offered their help and services where needed."

The spokesman said that deliveries to all hospitals had been main tained, including Maesteg, which is locat-

ed on top of a steep hill.

The hospitals have been using 4 x 4s to ferry people and items around and a number of volun-teers have come forward to offer the use of their own vehicles, which has been very welcome.

The board said that as a result of people offer-ing help, difficulties had

News from the Pencoed Comprehensive School

At end of term a chance for serious charity fundraising

BEFORE the end of term, pupils and staff at Pencoed Comprehensive School continued with their charity fundraising activities.

Children in Need was the latest whole school event, raising £593. This was raised in a variety of ways - filling in a Pudsey Bear outline with loose change, coffee morning, face-painting, selling cakes, raffles etc. A big thank you to everyone for their gen-

erosity.
Year-7 pupils collected £240 for charity by holding a Readathon. This is an annual event organised by Mr Dean Evans in the English department. The money collected is donated equally to CLIC Sargent and The Roald Dahl Foundation, who spend the money helping children and young people suffering from long term illnesses and injuries.

The running total over the last four years is £1.760.35. Well done to all pupils for taking part, and especially Chloe Jones who raised £80.

Following an appeal from Velindre Cancer Centre to knit chicks for their Easter appeal, Pencoed Comprehensive School decided to take up the challenge.

The Sixth Form. together with members of staff knitted and decorated more than 80 chicks which will be sent to the hospital each to be filled with an Easter egg. Last year the pupils sold 300 chicks at £1 each.

This year, they hope to sell even more. Many pupils gained new skills such as knitting and sewing during the challenge.

Sixth formers from the Interact Group of pupils who organise fund raising activities for charity, have organised a collection of toys to be placed in decorated shoe boxes

The 15 boxes, full of tovs, were taken to the Rhondda Women's Aid organisation by Matthew Sparks and Richard Poole. They will be dis-tributed to families before Christmas.

Members of the Pencoed Sixth Form took part in their annual winter walk to raise money for their Sixth Form fund.

The winter walk has been an annual event for the past couple of years and the sixth formers gain a sense of independence by raising their own money towards events such as their sum-

mer prom. The sixth formers trekked from Merthyr Mawr through to Porthcawl town centre. over the sand dunes and across Newton beach, a massive five mile hike.

Each member of the group dressed up to keep team morale up.

The group consisted of penguins, snowmen, babies, Christmas puddings, Mario and Luigi and two very special guests – the Queen accompanied by Prince Charles!

Not leaving the students to have all the fun, Mr Owen, head of sixth form, along with other staff members of the school, also dressed up and joined the students for the event.

So far, the sixth form have raised more than £250 and the money is still pouring in from various sponsors and stu-

dents.
The day was very enjoyable and the sixth form are already thinking of other ways to raise money. A big well done to all who took

Staff raised £270.08 for Macmillan Cancer Relief during two coffee mornings and raised £144.50 from commission earned from Ian Lewis's jewellery sales.

Staff and pupils also donated £114 to the Poppy Appeal in November. During the term, year-11 the college group pupils raised £32.00 for the Help for Heroes campaign by washing staff cars.

Congratulations to all those pupils who repre-sented Ysgol Pencoed in rugby, football, hockey and netball activities this

term.
The school is very grateful to staff in the PE department and the pupils who give up their time for practice sessions, as well as the actual matches themselves.

Due to the inclement weather the winter sports day on December 10 was held indoors. However, that didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the participants or the supporters.
Congratulations to the

winners - Owain House. Thank you very much to Mrs Rhian Yamin Ali. Miss Elinor Williams, and the pupils and staff who took part in the Christmas concert held at Salem Chapel on

December 14.

This was a lovely evening thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. Pupils also laid on a special concert in the afternoon for Pencoed and Llanharan OAPs.

The concert reminded us all of the special meaning of Christmas Thank you also to Salem Chapel for allowing us the use of the chapel for the concert and the rehearsals.

Everyone who attended appreciated the hot refreshments provided by the PTA on such a cold evening. Thank you to all for kind donations to the PTA's collection



Mrs Connick, Rhiannon Main, Zoe Phillips, Eleri Main, Mrs Smith.

Thank you also to Ysgol Pencoed's canteen staff for preparing such a wonderful Christmas dinner. Pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed the meal, as did the 'regulars' from our senior citizens lunchtime club, as well as visitors from Pencoed and Llanharan OAP club.

Guests joined in with carols sung by Ruth Jones (site manager), Christine Lacey (kitchen assistant) and David George (headteacher).

Sixth form pupils provided refreshments and helped with the clearing up. Senior citizens lunches will resume on Thursday, January 6. Please join us at 12 noon every Tuesday and Thursday during the school term.

Year-12 pupils organised a very successful Christmas fair in the school's sports hall on the last Monday of the school term, attended by our friends in the community, pupils and local primary schoolchildren. Thank you to everyone who came along and who donated items for

the various stands.

Three year 10 pupils.

Megan Maunder, Katie Graves and Stephanie Harris competed recently in the regional round of the ESU public speaking competition in Bridgend. Congratulations to Megan Maunder, winner of the competition.

Thank you very much to Caroline Darch, English teacher for working with the pupils on their debating skills.
The PTA remains very

supportive of the school, providing much appreciated refreshments for staff and sustenance to parents and pupils dur-ing Parents' Evenings.

Everyone enjoyed the recent Christmas shopping trip to London. Staff and pupils are very appreciative of their hard work. The focus of the PTA's fundraising this year is raising money for a new school minibus.

The group of ESDGC pupils who range from year 7 to 12 have been busy recently. They managed to secure a Fair Trade hamper from The Coop in Pencoed and raffled this to raise funds for future environmental projects.
The group is also

about to embark on a project with Green



Mario and Luigi!

Dragon - an environmental company based in Bridgend that works with businesses to make their operations more sustainable.

If successful, Pencoed Comprehensive School would be the first school in the area to receive the award.

A number of sapling trees have been acquired recently which will be planted on the school grounds by the Eco group and with the help of Pencoed Town Council.

However, due to the freezing weather, this has had to be postponed until after Christmas.

The group is also starting out on a project with 'Recycool' where the pupils will be col-lecting used ink cartridges which will then be collected and recycled.

On Friday December 17, the Eco group also ran a cake sale to raise funds for more litter pickers.

The hope is to involve the majority of the pupils in keeping the school site tidy and when possible, moving outside the grounds into the local community to put out a clear message to Pencoed that we all need to work together to keep our environment litter-free.

Staff and pupils would like to wish everyone a 'Very Happy Christmas and New

The Entertainers THE drama department at Pencoed Comprehensive is very busy rehearsing 'The Entertainers', an exciting new variety show featuring drama sketches and exam pieces, dance numbers and musical extracts from more than 90 students from across all the year groups.

This is the first pro-duction directed by the new director of drama.



Chloe Jones

Mrs Kay Smith, who is delighted to be working with so many talented young people at Pencoed.

"The Entertainers gives every pupil a chance to shine regardless of age or ability. Not everyone can have a leading role in a main production but with a variety show like this everyone can be involved," said Kay, who has come from the award-winning drama department in Llantwit Major school, after 14 years as head of department there.

The show opens with an explosive version of 'I've Gotta Feeling' and finishes with a moving rendition of 'Tell me it's not true' from Blood Brothers. Working with the students on the variety show has given Kay lots of ideas for the main school production and she is already sure who the future stars are

"Being new to the school, I wanted to have an opportunity to get to know the students before choosing the main production and *The* Entertainers has certainly proved just how talented the Pencoed pupils are," she commented. More than 60 pupils

auditioned over three weeks for the solo roles and it has been a tremendous challenge and lots of fun staging the large

company numbers.

The Entertainers

promises to be a night to
remember! The show is for one night only on Feb 16 2011. Tickets are £6 for adults and £4 concessions. Call 01656 867100

Pupils want more cycling to school



Chelsea, Siobhan, Sharelle and Shannon from Maesteg Comprehensive.

RECENTLY, pupils from Maesteg Comprehensive School travelled to Cardiff to show a short film that has been created to encourage children to walk and cycle to

The group held a conference at the Millennium

Centre, before cycling to the premiere.
Pupils from Maesteg worked alongside children
from Bishop of Llandaff High School in Cardiff

and St Cenydd School in Caerphilly, to produce a pilot programme for an activity week that will run in 10 schools across Wales in January.

NEWS FROM YSGOL GYFUN BRO MORGANNWG

A busy and rewarding term for school pupils







ABOVE: The school's concert at the Memo featured all types of music



ABOVE: Chloe Chick and Saffia Hurley.

IT has been an extremely busy time of late at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg.

Pupils have excelled at sport, have won acclaim for work within the community, raised tremendous amounts of money for charity, and welcomed guests from abroad.

The school has also showcased the talents of current and former pupils at a concert in Barry Memorial Hall to celebrate the school's 10th anniversary.

Some of the highlights of the past few weeks have included

● Plant Mewn Angen

- Pupils raised a staggering £2,800 for Children in Need. All activities were arranged by the year-12 pupils who are members of the school's charity committee.

Herr Bodo

Hofmann-Thomshewski described his visit to the school as a participant in the UK-German connection 'Host a teacher' pro-gramme as an "extraor-dinary, interesting expe-

Roadworks report

Pontypridd Street – junction with Mount Pleasant, Barry – footway restriction in place. Colcot Road, between Winston Road and Whitewell Road, Barry temporary traffic con-

B4265 St Athan to Barry - temporary traffic control.

owbridge Comprehensive School

temporary traffic con-

He was deeply impressed by the high standard of technological equipment at Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg but what he enjoyed most was the time spent in various German classes, where he found the pupils very friendly and

polite.

Since September, Aled Williams from Urdd Gobaith Cymru has been working with pupils from years 7 to 13, offering sporting

opportunities out of school hours. Recently, Chloe Chick and Saffia Hurley took part in a Sports Leadership Awards presentation in Cardiff with the aim of bidding for finance to set up a street dancing club in the Vale for Welsh speakers from primary and secondary schools

 Year-6 enjoyed their first visit of the year to Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg and took part in a transition day organised by the modern foreign languages department.

 It was an honour to be present at the school's 10th anniversary con-cert. Celebrating the pupils' talents and reminiscing about the past 10 years was a memorable experience with staff, past head prefects, for mer students who are now eminent performers and current pupils capti-

vating the audience.
These ranged from an awesome gymnastics display, to classical solos, from powerful dramatic presentations to choral performance worthy of any national

stage.
It proved to be a truly memorable afternoon fo the school.

A great year for the Sea View Lads

THIS year has been another landmark in the Sea View Lads' long history - now extending back to the middle ages on the Peterson

New members have continued to come into the fold, including the welcome sight of a few more juniors, strengthen-

righter anks for the future.
Fishing has been good, if sporadic, with many more rays being landed locally along the shore and hounds being landed up as far as Cardiff.
The annual excursions to

The annual excursions to Weymouth, Tenby and Lanzarote were all successful, strengthening cultural links

strating the incredible con-sumption capacity of many members!

Notable birthdays in the year Notable birthdays in the year included our great leader, Alan, hitting the big 60. Few will forget him proudly demonstrating his commitment to joining the 20th century by having his first mobile phone (not sure who will explain that we are now in

Thanks must go to Eddie for his shore comp efforts, bus pass for fundraising and general entertainment value and the slaphead twins ICA and Bobo for their never ending double act. Andy Page is this year's Christmas comp winner, after

legs. He also picks up the Eddie Frost trophy after win-ning overall on the 19th December comp.

John Frost was narrowly pipped by ounces, missing out on his brother's trophy after having to finish early as a result of a welly full of water! Keyin Gardner won the first

leg, along with the Wyndham Page trophy, but was unable to weigh in this time around, leav-

weign in this time around, leav-ing the coast clear for Andy to clean up!

While the first leg was fished in incredibly cold condi-tions of minus 8 degrees C, with bait freezing on the hook and ice on the line, the second

tures reaching freezing briefly before dropping back to a numbing cold. Many thanks to the Peterson clan for the catering and the usual supects for putting the club first to make sure everyone had a great apre

fishing session.

Over the two matches, codling showed in small numbers, along with some dogs, while whiting as usual these days were scarce – but we had around 40 anglers brave the conditions in both legs.

Season's greetings to all and budding anglers who want to join our merry band are wel-come to submit an application to join us in 2011 to join us in 2011.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT, 1990 **CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG** DEDDF CYNLLUNIO (ADEILADAU RHESTREDIG AC ARDALOEDD CADWRAETH) 1990

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for planning permission for the undermentioned developments: HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Development in Conservation Areas Datblygiad mewn Ardaloedd Cadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal:/Cynnig: Location:/Lleoliad: Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth

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Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal:/Cynnig:

Location:/Lleoliad: Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal:/Cynnig:

Location:/Lleoliad: Ardal Gadwraeth

Penarth

New 3 bedroomed house in part of existing curtilage of Old

Conservation Area:/

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995 GORCHYMYN CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF

2010/01253/FUL Proposed new first floor level to existing bungalow Glan yr Eglwys, Flemingston Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal:/Cynnig:

Flemingston

2010/01286/FUL Construction of a single storey annex. Extension and improvements to the front of Pleasant Cot-

Pleasant Cottage, Turkey Street, Llantwit Major Llantwit Major

2010/01298/FUL

Alterations and extensions to pavilion to include new sec-ond floor observatory extension and new roofs, with access improvements included along with other associate works. These alterations are in association with change of use of the pavilion to mixed use, to include restaurant shop, conference suite and auditorium/cinema. Penarth Pier Pavilion, Penarth

2010/01340/FUL

Old School House, Cardiff Road, Cowbridge

Installation of a new external DDA compliant ramp into existing Banking Hall 61, High Street, Cowbridge

<u>Listed Building Consent</u> <u>Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig</u>

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal:/Cynnig:

Alterations and new second floor observatory extension to pavilion to include new roofs, new internal layout, building access improvements with new side entrances, lowering of ground floor, new first floor gallery and new lifts. Penarth Pier Pavilion, Penarth

Location:/Lleoliad: Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal:/Cynnig:

2010/01343/LBC

cation:/Lleoliad: isted Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig

Installation of a new external DDA complient ramp into existing Banking Hall 61, High Street, Cowbridge

Development that might affect the setting of a Conservation Area Datblygiad a allay effeithio ar amgylchedd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal:/Cynnig: Location:/Lleoliad:

2010/01334/FUL

onservation Area:/ rdal Gadwraeth

Alterations and first floor extension to existing dwelling Cross Farm Bungalow, Llysworney

Development that might affect the setting of a Listed Building Datblygiad a allai effeithio ar amgylchedd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal:/Cynnig:

2010/01240/LBC Demolition of covered yard. Reduction in height of 1.2m of concrete block-work

Location:/Lleoliad: Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig

73, Eastgate, Cowbridge Affecting 73 Eastgate Grade II

(TREFN DATBLYGIAD CYFFREDINOL) 1995

Application(s) that may be of General Public Interest Ceisiadau a allai fod o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol i'r Cyhoedd

2010/01287/RG3

2010/01326/FUL

2010/01277/FUL. Extension to existing food and green waste in-vessel composting plant Existing agricultural building situated 300m to the west of Llwynhelig Farm, Cowbridge

Location:/Lleoliad:

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal:/Cynnig:

Location:/Lleoliad:

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal:/Cynnig: Location:/Lleoliad:

Application No:/

2010/01336/FUL New care services facility, car parking and associated

Rhif y cais: Proposal:/Cynnig: Location:/Lleoliad: Ty Hafan, Hayes Road, Sully

Application(s) which might affect a Public Right of Way Ceisiadau a allai effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Change of Use to Use Class A1 39, Park Crescent, Barry

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal:/Cynnig: Location:/Lleoliad:

2010/01327/FUL Ground and first floor extension to an existing dwelling Llyswen, Windmill Lane, Llanblethian

Construction of a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) - Amendment to Planning Consent 2008/00492/RG3
Plot 6, Atlantic Trading Estate, Barry

Departure from the Provision of the Development Plan Ceisiadau nad ydynt yn cydymffurfio â Darpariaeth y Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal:/Cynnig:

2009/00946/OLIT

Development of vacant land at Barry Waterfront for residential (C3), retail (A1), cafes, bars and restaurants (A3), hotel (C1), offices (B1) and community and leisure uses (D1 and D2). Development of vehicular and pedestrian/cycle access including a new link road, regrading of site to form new site levels and associated infrastructure works, parking, servicing, landscaping, public realm and public open space provision Land at Barry Waterfront adjacent to Dock No. 1, Barry

Location:/Lleoliad:

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: Proposal:/Cynnig:

Location:/Lleoliad:

Barry CF63 4RT

2009/00947/OUT

2009/00947/OUT
Development of vacant land at Barry Waterfront for residential (C3), retail (A1), cafes, bars and restaurants (A3), hotel (C1), offices (B1) and community and leisure uses (D1 and D2). Development of vehicular and pedestrian/cycle access including a new link road, re-grading of site to form new site levels and associated infrastructure works, parking, servicing, landscaping, public realm and public open space provision
Land at Barry Waterfront adjacent to Dock No. 1, Barry

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at vog.planning-register.co.uk

Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeydd Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau. Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar-lein y cyngor drwy fynd i vog.planning-register.co.uk.

Dated: 23rd December, 2010 Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office Barry Docks

Dyddiedig: 23rd Rhagfyr, 2010 Rob Thomas Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Doc, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri CF63 4RT

The lucky prizewinners for 2010 are announced at the Christmas lunch



ed the prize winners

On December 13.

Jenny Knott, one of the

lady members, gave a

ladies on how to make

She made it look easy,

but when the ladies tried

there was great jollity with various shapes and

a lot of chocolate being

spread about, some were

more successful than

However, after an

industrious afternoon, all

had enjoyed themselves

and achieved a box of

Lorraine thanked

time and the excellent

money raised will go to her charity 'Friends of

Jenny for giving her

demonstration, the

The 12 hole

Champagne Trot was

in the wet and cold

halfway house.

played on December 16. Those who ventured out

weather were rewarded

with mulled wine and

mince pies served by Father Christmas in the

The champagne was

won by Margaret Thomas with 23 points

and Chris John second

Velindre'

petits fours to take

sizes being produced and

to follow her example

demonstration to 16

petits fours.

others.

THE ladies of Cottrell Park were unable to play any golf on Thursday, December 9 as the course was closed due to adverse weather conditions following a heavy fall of snow.

This did not, however, prevent them enjoying their Christmas lunch at the club which was attended by 60 ladies. The prize giving followed lunch.

The prize winners were: Cup of Achievement shared by Tina Morgan and Bridget Roberts; Birdie Tree and Summer eclectic Button, Sandra Collin; GUW Medal, Lorraine Pointon-Bell: Summer League, Julia Evans: Macmillan Spoon, Lorna Monks; Dragon Brooch, Tina Morgan; LGU Breakthrough Cancer brooch, Javne James: Golf Foundation Brooch and the Llanfair trophy, Sara Williams; Grandmothers' Trophy, Brenda Margetts; Pencarreg Cup, Carol Evans; Summer eclectic Mackintosh, Patricia

There were also prizes for the 15 stableford and

the 15 medal winners.
The ladies' captain, Lorraine Pointon- Bell thanked everyone for their support throughout



Jenny Knott demonstrating making petits fours.





Bridget Roberts.

Sandra Collin.



ABOVE: Patricia Davies.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Brook Lane, St Nicholas – Retention of barn as leisure and amenity building ancil-Berkley Leisure Group Ham Manor Residential Park, Llantwit Major – Various trees - remove overhanging limbs; cypresses; dead trees. Thinning in dense wood over stream. Pruning/rebalance yews x 2 and remove immature sycamore next to yew Mrs Debra Frost – 27 Mrs Debra Frost – 27 Sully Terrace, Penarth Amendment to approved application (2010/00244/FUL) to etain increased height of garage. Mr and Mrs Sexton -Rock House, Chapel Terrace, Twyn Yr Odyn – Two storey extension to east elevation. Mrs Sheila A B Paine -

7 Fitzhamon Avenue, Llantwit Major – Single storey timber frame workroom to the

Mr Christopher Howarth 20 Evenlode Avenue. Penarth - Amendment to approved application (2010/00072/FUL) including amendments to extension and increasing size of pool enclosure. Mr K Shapley – **Plot** rear of Cosmeston Cottages, Lavernock Road, Penarth – Erection of detached nouse complete with drive, turning spaces and parking area. Mr Martin Hawkes Land adjoining 2 Eurgan Close, Llantwit Major – Change of use to residential land adjato residential land adjacent to 2 Eurgan Close, including the provision of a double garage.

Mr Wayne Roderick – 58 Millfield Drive, Cowbridge – Single storey rear garden timber

Mr and Mrs Andrew Phillips – **9 Love Lane**, **Llanblethian** – Two storey side extension to provide new kitchen/breakfast facilities and master bedroom, ensuite at first floor. Cowbridge Compost consent Limited – Existing agri- 2008/00492/RG3

shed

cultural building situated 300m to the west of Llwynhelig Farm, Cowbridge – Extension to existing food and green waste in-vessel composting plant. Mr Ian Hutchenson 123 Plymouth Road, Penarth – Rear two story extension.
Mr and Mrs Jonathan
Humphreys – Rhos
Dawel, Trerhyngyll –
First floor side extension
and first floor dormer extension

Mr John Lomax – 14 Sycamore Close, Dinas Powys – Construct one dwelling house in lower garden.

Mr Tom Margrain – 45 Stanwell Road, Penarth – Proposed pitched roof to bay window on front elevation replacing defective para-pet wall. Existing vehicular access to be Mr Hamzelou -

Homestower, Wellwood Drive, Dinas Powys – Erection of side gable and front dormer. Mr L B Evans – 44 South Road, Sully Remove 2 pines in corner of plot.

Mrs June Rosier – Seven
Oaks Fish Farm,

Talygarn – Extend existing dwelling. Mr G J Robbins – Marlborough Grange Farm, Crossways, Cowbridge – Proposed demolition of old barn, removal of residential caravan and replacement with prefabricated log cabin to provide residen-

tial (retirement) accommodation for Mr and Mrs G J Robbins. Mr David Iones Pleasant Cottage, Turkey Street, Llantwit Major – Construction of a single storey annexe. Extension and improve-ments to the front of Pleasant Cottage. Director of Environmental & Economic Regeneration, Vale of Glamorgan Council – Plot 6, Atlantic Trading Estate, Barry – Construction of a house-

hold waste recycling centre (HWRC) – amendment to planning

Mr Damian Stokes Quainton, 4 Meadow Lane, Penarth Erection of single storey extension, first floor extension, new garage and demolition of existing outbuildings. Mr Peter Rogers –
Bolston House,
Bonvilston – Felling of 52 Clos Ogney, Llantwit Major Lawson cypress on boundaries.

Mr Walters Rivermouth House, 6 Main Road, Ogmore by Sea - Two storey exten-

Mr Hywel Jones – 38 Plymouth Road, Penarth – Construction of artists studio and new conservatory and new timber sash windows Openreach, Mr Deryk Green – Adjacent to Alexandra Court, The Esplanade, Penarth – New fibre optic modular cabinet

Dr Ben Mathew – 17 Cog Road, Sully – Single storey rear extension. Mr Mike Bevan – 2

Daniel Hopkin Close, Llantwit Major – Single storey extension. Mr Carey Jones – Brooklands, Brook Lane, St Nicholas – Mixed use of buildings (B to G) within building (B to G) within building group; buildings B to E for domestic storage, parking of cars, and B1 use; buildings F and G for keeping livestock for recreational purposes, and for storing equipment and materials used ment and materials used by the applicant to maintain buildings and land he owns at Brooklands Hall. Mr Michael Wishart –

Holland's Cottage, Higher End, St Athan Single storey rear extension and associated external works Mr Jeremy Barkway – Triloba Nursery, Peterston Super Ely Porch extension and internal works.

Maggie Knight Penarth Pier Pavilion, Penarth – Alterations and extensions to pavil-ion to include new second floor observatory extension and new roofs with access improvements included along with other associated works. These alterati

with change of use of the pavilion to mixed use, to include restaurant, shop, conference suite and auditorium/cin-

Mr Stephen Thompson -

Double storey extension to both sides of existing dwelling, alter roof line, with store space and a photographic dark room within roof space, form new front entrance with

canopy over.
Mr and Mrs Nigel
Sullivan – Wharncliff,
Swanbridge Road, Sully – Alterations with an extension into the roof space to create a 3 bedroom dormer bunga-

The Occupier – The
Rectory, Peterston
Super Ely – Removal of conifer screen and the pruning of trees away from overhead telephone cables, also the removal of deadwood from a poplar tree in the rear

garden. Mr and Mrs A Michael – 2 and 4 Stanwell Road, Penarth - Crown lifts to horse chestnut, lime and vew (at No 2). Reductions to cypresses and bay at rear. Mrs H D Hurst – 40 Fairfield Road,

Penarth – Rear single storey extension (works of adaptation for disabled person) Mr Howard Gibbon -

Stone Cottage, Graig Penllyne - Two storey extension to provide living room and bedroom. Ms Gail Armytage -Tyntywod Cottage,

Ystradowen – Single store extension to rear. Mr Alan Charles – 365 Barry Road, Barry -Retention of attic conversion as constructed. Mr Derek Osborn – 10 The Limes, Cowbridge

Demolition of UPVC

conservatory, construction of single storey rear extension to form sitting/music room. kitchen/dining room and associated terrraces/land-



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2009 Civic 2.0 Type 'R' GT Sat Nav, 8,000 miles, silver, parking sensors....

0	2007 Chric 1.8 Type 5 Vivid Blue, 29,900 miles, alloys, 2 year service plan
	HONDA CIVIC 5 DOOR
0	2010 Civic 1.4 SEi Shift 2,000 miles, climate, alloys, polished metal
)	2010 Civic 1.8i-YTEC, 50 miles, crystal black pearl, ex, leather interior, automatic£16,990.00
0	2010 Civic 2.2i-CTDi 7,980 miles, alabaster silver metallic, ES, glass roof
,	2010 Civic 1.8 ES Milano Red, 2,100 miles, alloys, glass roof
0	2010 Civic 1.8i-VTEC 1,161 miles, polished metal, ES, automatic
)	2008 Civic 1.4i-DSi 23,500 miles, champagne silver metallic, SE, VSA
	2005 Civic 1.6 SE automatic, air con, alloys, 75,000 miles
0	2004 Civic 1.6 Executive, full leather, Silver, 57,000 miles, air con, alloys
0	HONDA ACCORD
0	2010 Accord 2.2 ES Cobolt Blue, 2,000 miles, climate control, alloys
6	2003 Accord Executive, automatic, with air con, alloys, leather trim
0	2008 Accord 2.2 i - CTDi 29,800 miles, Nighthawk Sport GT Advance4d Navi
0	HONDA CR-V
0	
•	2008 CR-V 2.2 Ex Grey, ivory leather, sat nax, climate
	2007 CR-V 2.0i-VTEC 28,000, sparkle grey pearl, EX, automatic, sat nav
0	2007 CR-Y 2.2 CTDi ES Bluish Silver, 24,000 miles, alloys, climate
,	2005 CR-Y 2.0 YTEC Sport, 71,000 miles, magnetic blue, multi media system
0	HONDA HYBRID
	2010 CR-Z 1.5 SPORT 50 miles, Showroom Silver, Climate Control, ABS
	2010 Insight 1.3 IMA 5,000 miles, ES automatic, neutron blue
	2009 Insight 1.3 IMA 22,525 miles, blue metallic, ES, automatic, 3 year service plan£11,990.00
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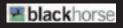
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HIGH HOPES FOR YOUNG HOT SHOTS

PORTHCAWL UNDER-16S

2010 has been a selves against quality fantastic year for Porthcawl under-16s (pictured right).

Many milestones have been set that future junior section age groups will look to emu-

late.

In March/April the young Seaweeds (as under-15s) were invited to play a district side and an English county

On a cold and wet evening in Banwen, they shocked Neath Schools District with superb forward play and an intelligent territorial game before running out as worthy 14-0 winners. This is the first time Neath District had been

Neath District had been beaten by a club side.

A few weeks later, Hampshire County were touring and Bridgend District kindly asked Porthcawl if they would also are of the vicities. play one of the visiting

This invitation was a great opportunity for the team to prove themopposition.

played superbly and beat the county side 25-

Next up was the Ospreys Cup final. Preparations went very well with training at the ground (Maesteg RFC)

the week before.

On the day of the final, before getting on the coach to the game, Ryan Bevington and Tom Prydie were at the club to present the team with their match jerseys.

Another superb team performance saw the young Seaweeds win-ning 18-0 against a preunbeaten viously Aberavon Greenstars.

It was also great to

see so many supporters at the ground to watch the future of the club playing. This was the first time that a Porthcawl team had won the Ospreys Cup and the boys proudly brought the cup back to the club-

B Attack stay top of league



B ATTACK maintained their commanding lead at the summit of the Bridgend Six-a-side Premier Division as Sean Graham guided them to a 2-0 win over Day Sleepers.

Croissants are doing their best to keep up the pressure as James King inspired a comfortable 5-2 victo-

ry against Persil Boys.

Anyone who wants to join the six-a-side football league in Bridgend, can telephone 0845 230 2340 or visit www.leisureleagues.net

Premier Division				
Team Name	Played	Goal Diff	Points	
B Attack	8	17	14	
Croissants	8	14	11	
Persil Boys FC	8	13	11	
Day Sleepers	8	3	10	
Hangover Heroes	8	-4	6	
Blackjack	8	-11	4	
The Pie Boys	8	-18	4	
Division 1				
Young Exiles	8	20	15	
Team Xtreme	8	6	12	
Hardly Athletic	8	7	10	
Inter Wildmill	7	-2	6	
Laleston Lions	8	-3	6	
No Tea Tonight	8	-7	6	
Misfits	7	-9	6	
Minter Phoenix	8	-12	1	

As under-16s, new challenges lay ahead. whole The Ospreys selected a squad that includes nine team

Porthcawl players, the largest contingent from any side in the Ospreys region.

As well as regional rugby, this is also the vear that the Boys Clubs of Wales play, and eight Porthcawl players have been selected to play for them - a club record.

The team also provided Bridgend District with 12 players who played in an inter district cup.

As reigning Ospreys regional champions, the under-16s knew that this was going to be a very competitive season, with all sides trying to

take their scalp.

They were invited to play in the prestigious Reuben Morgan Reuben Morgan Memorial Sevens in Merthyr on the last Sunday in August and with teams from the Cardiff Blues and Dragons regions, this was a competitive tournament.

Missing a number of players, the Sevens squad performed superbly, were unbeaten over the day and won the tournament in style, scoring 35 tries and conceding only six.

Since their opening day success, there have been convincing victo-ries over Burry Port, Llanishen, Bryncethin,

Ystrad Nantyffylon Fairwater, and also a hard-fought win over local rivals Bridgend Athletic.

Due to the bad weather, the Ospreys Cup has not yet been played, with the first cup game now being in January/February. The team are now looking forward to their last four months of junior rugby before they embark on their end of season tour.

Squad 2010/11: Kieran Bluck (BD), Tom Bluck (Os, BCW), Declan Brown, Dan Evans, Scott Govan (Os. BCW, BD), Josh Harvey Nick Lloyd (BD) Xavier Manaseitava (BCW, BD), Thomas Matthews (BD), Isestyn Merriman (Os, BCW, BD), Huw Mitchell (BD), Tom Morris, Adam Mounce (BD), Alex Picton, Michael Rawnson, Connor Rees (BD), Gareth Rees, Lloyd Stanford (BD), Ben Smith (BCW), Jack Taylor (Os, BCW), Geraint Watkin (Os), Josh White (Os), Jack Williams (Os), Emyr Wile (BD), Evan Williams (Os, BCW), Owen Wright (BCW,

Symbol guide: Os (Ospreys under-16s), BCW (Boys Clubs of Wales), BD (Bridgend District).

Bridgend man to join Scorpions

SOUTH Scorpions League Club will be giving training opportunities to Wales at various levels, following the

Legends' verdict

KENFIG Hill's premier gents hairdresser and Pyle RFC legend, Jeff Kent, once again purchased two copies of the much sought-after Kenfig Hill RFC junior sections calendar.

However, Jeff had one complaint – he said there were too many pictures of Kenfig Hill players in it! Gerald O'Sullivan

Wales club's open trials on Rugby Sunday.

Mafi, Dan Crimmins, Christopher Strick and Izaac Duffy, who are all forwards, all four players who impressed and will be have turned out for joining the Scorpions from January, initially in a training capacity but they could be offered contracts if all goes well. Mafi, aged 28, had a trial for Celtic Crusaders

in 2006 and played in the club's very first game, a friendly against Harlequins.

However injury prevented his progress at the time and he has played well with Bridgend Blue Bulls since then.

An international play-er for Tonga under-24 in rugby union, and Wales Dragonhearts in rugby league, he is the nephew of the former Warrington star Mateaki Mafi, who was in the Tongan 1995 Rugby League World



'Miracle Worker' Tim plots Jack's Lad's Folkestone win

IACK'S LAD, an 11-year-old chestnut gelding whose previous suc- running cess had been at Hereford back in 2004, and who was

ON AND OFF THE TURF

the to for first time for Aberthin's Tim Vaughan, returned

Henson swaps his dancing shoes for rugby boots!



WHAT is that story about a star appearing in the east at this time of year?

Of course, London is not quite Bethlehem, but that's where a certain Mr Henson will be making his comeback for Saracens on Boxing Day.

For the reality TV star, it's a case of – 'back to reality'! LEFT: Gavin Henson looms over Sir Tasker Watkins. The photograph was taken when Wales launched their new team strip for the

the winners enclosure **Folkestone** last week when beating Watergate by threeand-a-half lengths.

Jack's Lad, who was running for the first time in more than 500 days, was ridden by Richard Johnson, who was also successful Triggerman and Only

Vintage.

Vaughan is something

of an expert when it comes to scoring with jaded horses and other trainers' rejects and has been dubbed 'The Miracle Worker.'

CHRISTIAN ON MEND

NATIONAL Hunt jockey Christian jockey Williams from Ogmore, who broke both his arms when being brought down on Beshabar in a novice chase Cheltenham in November, is making a slow recovery.
Christian, whose

younger brother Nick is

Llancarfan trainer Evan Williams, said: "It will probably be two or three months before I could get on a horse again, but my specialist said I won't be doing that if the left arm isn't better.

"I had five operations in the space of six or seven days, but my bone specialist has been pleased with the X-rays and everyone says they have done a great job with the plates in my

"At the time it was abit of a mess, but if you saw me now with long sleeves on, because I am not wearing a cast, you'd wonder what's wrong with me.

"I've been doing a fair bit of walking but ve got to be patient."

Christian is no stranger to injuries and sadly has had more than his fair share.

A graduate of the Llangeinor Hunt Pony Club, he made a name for himself in point-topoints and was dubbed 'The Boy Wonder'.

Who wants to build what and where in the county borough?

KJ Herbert Insurance Ltd – 28 Commercial Street, Maesteg part replacement signage converting the current Halifax agency site to Santander agency. R Ivey and D Tidy – Old School Court, School Terrace, North **Cornelly** – four three-bed houses (two detached and two semidetached) with garages and hardstanding.

Mrs Susan Thomas – car park Wickes Building Supplies Ltd, Picton Court Retail Park. Waterton, Bridgend - siting of portacabin in car park to use as barbers/hairdressers.

Caerau Development Trust land opposite 14-25 North
Street, Caerau, Maesteg – create a market garden inc hardstanding, poly tunnels, fencing and a shop unit and temporary consent for storage containers. Lewistown & Pantrawel
Residents – land adjacent to
A4061 Main Road from Blackmill to Ogmore Vale -

siting of portacabin for community use. Next Group Plc – **Unit 3, Picton**

Court Retail Park, Waterton, Bridgend – external alterations including new shopfront with enlarged glazing at ground and first floors, fire escape, plant compound and changes to rear. Mr J Freeman – 16 Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend – proposed dormer extension and pitched roofs to existing outbuildings.

Mr D Rees – 33 West End Avenue, Porthcawl – proposed rear bedroom extensions and garage conversion.

J & SM Webster Properties – land at Pan y Awel Road, Ogmore Vale - construction of

Mr S Dawkes – 69 Angelton Green, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend double storey rear side exten-

Mr P Wooster – 8 Sandymeers, Porthcawl - single storey extension incorporating a kitchen/dining area and internal alterations. Mr B Hapgood – **307 New** Road, Porthcawl – rear extension to extend kitchen/dining room and create a utility room lobby entrance and wet room (all single storey). Mr N Thomas – **78 Davis**

Avenue, Bryncethin – single storey extension and internal alterations.

Welsh Assembly Government land at Brocastle, Bridgend request for screening opinion for business and industrial development including buildings, roads, parking, landscaping and engineering. Ms F Page – 29 West End

Avenue, Porthcawl - two storey extension with dormers to front and rear elevations.

Mr G Walters – Garw Valley
Tennis Club, Federation Lane,
Pontycymer – erection of four
floodlights columns to serve three existing tennis courts.